
Comment on Docket #3880 – 307 Washington Street

From Ashley Higgs Hammell <ahiggshammell@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/13/2026 3:41 PM

To ZBA <ZBA@town.arlington.ma.us>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Arlington Zoning Board Members,

I am writing to comment on Docket #3880 – 307 Washington Street ahead of tonight's zoning board meeting.

Please do not grant an exception to the Boston Gas Company to build a bigger take station at 307 Washington St., currently zoned for residential use. There are many, many reasons to not expand gas infrastructure in 2026. Here are several:

1. Most importantly to me, I am a mother of two young children (1 and 3) and am very concerned about the environment I am -- and all of us are -- passing on to them. With the current federal administration doing everything in their power to ensure the world melts and has no clean air or water, it is imperative that we at the local level do everything in our power to fight back. That includes not approving any project -- no matter how seemingly small -- that further commits us to a future dependent on gas.
2. This goes against Arlington's Net Zero by 2050 climate goal. Expanding gas infrastructure is not how we need to be investing resources (specifically land, in this case). The town should remain focused on electrification and not approve projects that are not aligned with this ultimate goal. Especially projects that would cut down carbon-sinking trees.
3. Take stations commonly have methane leaks. So while Boston Gas Company may claim the project won't hurt the health of the community, this is just not true. Arlington already has more than 185 active gas leaks and we do not need more. I feel especially strongly about this in the wake of the EPA's recent announcement that it will no longer consider the human cost of pollution in regulating businesses. That is unacceptable. Lives are affected by pollution -- methane gas included -- and every little leak adds up and impacts the health of us all.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration as you make your decision. As a group of people with the power to halt this project, I urge you to consider the weight of the health and future of Arlington's youngest residents. It may seem like a small project -- just one parcel of land -- but every little bit counts and is more important than ever at this moment in history.

Thank you,
Ashley Hammell
163 Charlton St., Arlington