

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 12, 2019

Mark Kempic  
President and Chief Operating Officer  
Columbia Gas of Massachusetts  
4 Technology Drive  
Westborough, MA 01581

Dear Mr. Kempic,

We write to express our support for an extension of Columbia Gas of Massachusetts' program to provide no-cost insulation and air sealing to its customers in Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover. Currently, this Mass Save program is set to expire after December 31, 2019.<sup>1</sup>

On January 29, 2019, the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities issued an order approving the 2019-2021 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for the electric and gas distribution companies operating in the Commonwealth.<sup>2</sup> In this plan, the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council reiterated that it "expects Columbia Gas to dedicate targeted efforts to support the installation of high-efficiency equipment and weatherization measures in homes and businesses affected by the September 2018 incident in the Merrimack Valley."<sup>3</sup> As a result, Columbia Gas committed to encouraging "increased participation in its energy efficiency programs in Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover (i.e., the affected municipalities in the Merrimack Valley) through (1) additional resources to support customers, (2) increased participant incentives/rebates, and (3) targeted marketing efforts."<sup>4</sup>

While there has been a surge in insulation and air sealing in the Greater Lawrence area, the distribution of those installations and projects shows that the increased participation has not been proportionally allocated across Lawrence, North Andover, and Andover. Despite having more residents than Andover and North Andover combined, Lawrence only accounted for around a quarter of the total Mass Save installations in the area.<sup>5</sup>

It is clear that Columbia Gas failed to sufficiently reach out to Lawrence residents, and as a result, has not appropriately upheld its commitments for targeting marketing and increased participation under the Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan. Community advocates have shared

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.columbiagas.com/massachusetts/resources/energy-efficiency>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/news/massachusetts-nation-leading-three-year-energy-efficiency-plan-approved-0>

<sup>3</sup> <https://fileservice.eea.comacloud.net/FileService.Api/file/FileRoom/10317061> p. 157

<sup>4</sup> <https://fileservice.eea.comacloud.net/FileService.Api/file/FileRoom/10317061> p. 158

<sup>5</sup> <http://ma-eeac.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/October-Greater-Lawrence-Update.pdf>

stories of having their recommendations rejected, resulting in a lack of Spanish-language materials, a paucity of informative flyers, and inadequate outreach. As a result, we support the extension of the no-cost insulation and air sealing program in the Greater Lawrence area for another year, and urge Columbia Gas to invest sufficient resources in community outreach to rectify the installation gap between Andover, North Andover, and Lawrence.

Sincerely,

  
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

  
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

  
Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress