



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

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city.council@boston.gov

One City Hall Square ♦ 5th Floor ♦ Boston, MA 02201 ♦ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ♦ Fax: (617) 635-4203

June 26, 2018

Ms. Marcy Reed, Massachusetts President
National Grid USA
40 Sylvan Road
Waltham, MA 02451

Dear Ms. Reed:

We, the undersigned members of the Boston City Council, wish to express our concern regarding the current collective bargaining negotiations between National Grid and workers represented by United Steelworkers Locals 12003 and 12012. We believe National Grid has an obligation, as a public utility, to bargain in good faith. We hope that this matter is resolved swiftly, equitably and does not result in any impact on public safety nor loss of utility service for our constituents.

The contract between a public utility and its frontline employees is a matter of great public interest. It is incumbent on all parties, workers and management alike, to approach such contract negotiations with a spirit of fairness and compromise. We are concerned that any delays in the collective bargaining process could result in work stoppages, lock outs and/or other labor related actions that would diminish service in large segments of the Commonwealth and threaten public safety.

The very nature of live gas-line work including: making repairs, fixing leaks, marking out the location of pipes and connections in our neighborhoods and near our schools, hospitals, etc., makes this work particularly sensitive. We need National Grid to ensure that gas work is done by knowledgeable experts with years of experience. The trained workforce traditionally under contract with National Grid is already the best safeguard against potentially catastrophic accidental harm. Any substitute for this experience and professionalism would be irresponsible.

As such, we ask that National Grid and members of Local USW Locals 12003 and 12012 continue to negotiate in good faith to come to an agreement that is equitable and fair to the workforce as well as the consumers of Massachusetts.

As National Grid negotiates with the gas workers of Locals 12003 and 12012, we hope the corporation will keep in mind critical elements of any fair labor contract:

- Protect healthcare benefits for current employees and retirees
- Stop erosion of pay thresholds for new hires
- Make certain that incoming long-term employees are shielded against wage and benefit cuts

We thank you for your attention in this matter. If you would like to further discuss, please contact Councilor Ed Flynn at (617) 635-3203; Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.

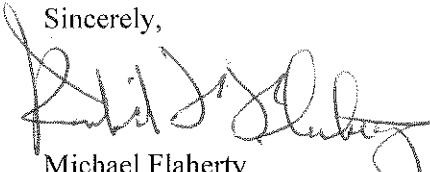


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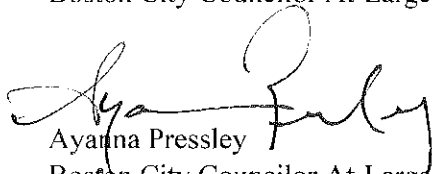
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Sincerely,



Michael Flaherty
Boston City Councilor At-Large

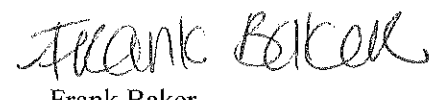

Annissa Essaibi George
Boston City Councilor At-Large

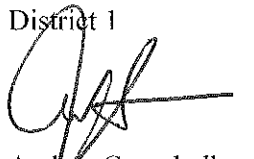

Ayanna Pressley
Boston City Councilor At-Large



Michelle Wu
Boston City Councilor At-Large



Lydia Edwards
Boston City Council
District 1

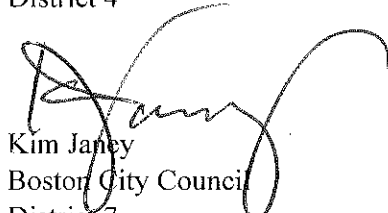

Ed Flynn
Boston City Council
District 2

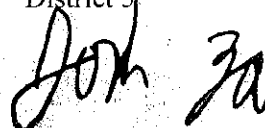

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