2300 Washington Street

Roxbury, MA, 02119

October 26, 2015

24 Beacon St,

Boston, MA 01233

Dear Legislator,

I am writing you this letter to urge you to help fix 3,000 gas leaks under the streets of Boston. I feel this matter not only affects the residents of Boston but more specifically, it affects community of young people who are invested in the future of our city. Leaving the issue of these gas leaks unattended has both short-term and long-term consequences.

The gas leaks negatively influences the residents of Boston every day.

* It wastes resources—The amount of gas leaking out of damaged pipes is equivalent to the amount of gas it would take to heat 200,000 homes every year.
* It wastes our money—The cost of leaked gas in ***not*** paid for by the utilities companies that are responsible for the leaks. It is paid for by the ratepayers, the people of Boston. This means that we are paying for gas that we do not use and it is costing us 90 million dollars a year.
* It is hazardous—The leaked gas put Boston residents at a higher risk of developing aggravated asthma and other respiratory issues and increases the risk of explosions.

There are also long-term consequences if we neglect fixing the gas leaks.

* It degrades the communities and environment we live in—Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that encourages climate change. The methane from the gas leaks may, in fact, be Boston's number one source of greenhouse gases, more than the emissions from ***all*** the cars and trucks in Boston.

Taking all of this into account, I implore that you support legislation (H2870/S1768) that will prohibit utilities companies from charging ratepayers for the cost of lost and unaccounted for gas. This will encourage efficiency in the repair process which will benefit consumers and the environment. I also urge you to support legislation (H2871/S1767) to require all leaks, including grade 3 or non-hazardous leaks, to be repaired when a road is opened up for construction—a common sense addition to existing regulation that will save ratepayers money.

Thank you for taking the time to acknowledge my concerns.

Sincerely,