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October 2, 2014

Ann G. Berwick, Chair  
Department of Public Utilities  
One South Station, 5th Floor  
Boston, MA 02110

**Re: Extension of Winter Moratorium on Shut Offs**

Dear Chair Berwick:

As you know, the Department in many recent years has asked the local distribution companies ("Companies") to extend the end-date of the winter moratorium later into March, or even into April or May. We respectfully request that the Department extend the Winter Moratorium to April 15, 2015 from March 15, 2015<sup>1</sup>. Our goal is to make sure no low-income households unable to pay their heating bills will be shut off when the temperatures could still be cold.

We further request that the Department make a formal request of the Companies to so extend the Winter Moratorium via the letter format it has used in the past. This will create certainty for all parties and allow Companies and fuel assistance agencies alike to engage in better messaging to customers. Knowing now when the moratorium will end will help with messaging and making sure the local fuel agencies can handle the additional intakes that occur when the moratorium ends.

We hope that the Department will agree with our request. We are happy to discuss this more thoroughly with you or with appropriate staff in the Consumer Division or elsewhere in the Department.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jesse S. Reyes".

Jesse S. Reyes  
Division Chief  
Office for Ratepayer Advocacy

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164, § 124F and 220 C.M.R. § 25.03(1) 3 the winter moratorium extends until March 15 of each year.