

**COMMENTS OF  
THOMAS M. KILEY  
PRESIDENT AND CEO  
NORTHEAST GAS ASSOCIATION**

**MA DPU Listening session re:  
Regulation Review under Executive Order 562**

**October 15, 2015**

Good afternoon.

My name is Tom Kiley. I am president and CEO of the Northeast Gas Association (NGA), a trade association representing natural gas interests in the region. The natural gas distribution companies in the Commonwealth deliver natural gas to approximately 1.5 million customers every day – from homes and businesses to schools, hospitals and power plants.

On behalf of the Gas Utilities in the Commonwealth, NGA is pleased to provide comments at this "listening session" devoted to regulation review in accordance with Executive Order 562.

We first want to commend the Baker-Polito Administration and the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) for providing this opportunity to the public, industry and other stakeholders to offer comments on regulations.

This regulatory review process being undertaken by all state agencies affords both state government agencies and all affected parties, including the general public, to assess the appropriate role of regulation, and to consider areas where more cost-effective and efficient regulations or practices might be achieved.

The Gas Operators in the Commonwealth are regulated by the DPU on matters of public safety, customer service and business operations. The Gas Operators are governed principally under G.L. 220 C.M.R.

The areas of gas operation and customer service are key regulatory areas for the Gas Operators. Public safety is the top priority. The gas utilities remain focused on compliance with all state and federal regulations. Worker training in safe operations and operator qualification are key focus areas of the utility. NGA as an organization focuses much of its work in the areas of assisting gas utilities and contractors in attaining required training as well as in public awareness programs.

As the Commonwealth seeks to expand gas distribution service to meet growing residential and commercial demand, and as natural gas continues its key role in serving such end-use sectors as industrial and power generation load, it is incumbent on the gas operators and contractors to conduct their daily work in accordance with state and federal regulations, to ensure that natural gas is delivered safely and reliably at all times.

Technology is constantly changing and bringing new advances to society and business. At the same time, business structures are changing and the energy market itself is changing. State public policy and regulations change as well to accommodate changing conditions.

We do not have specific recommendations today regarding changes to state governing regulations. We do however urge the Department to remain open to consider changes in regulations whenever new technologies and changing market conditions provide the appropriate context for updating and/or revising regulations, to ensure more efficient and cost-effective regulation.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate today.