



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133

(617) 725-4000

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

September 14, 2018

Angela M. O'Connor, Chairman
Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Chairman O'Connor:

Pursuant to the Declaration of a State of Emergency that I just issued and section 4B of chapter 25 of the General Laws, I authorize you to take such action that you may consider necessary to assure public safety and welfare through the priority restoration or continuing availability of gas, electric and water utility services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles D. Baker".

Charles D. Baker
Governor



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GOVERNOR'S DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, beginning at approximately 5:00 p.m. on September 13, 2018 a series of fires broke out and explosions occurred in the City of Lawrence and Towns of Andover and North Andover;

WHEREAS, the fires and explosions appear to be related to the delivery of natural gas by Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts ("Columbia");

WHEREAS, the fires have caused a fatality and a number of injuries, destroyed people's homes and resulted in the evacuation of significant areas of the affected municipalities;

WHEREAS, the affected municipalities are requesting resources and support from the Commonwealth's departments and agencies to assist with this emergency;

WHEREAS, declaring a state of emergency will facilitate the Commonwealth's protection of persons and property from the impacts of the fires, explosions and loss of utility service, expedite the use of Commonwealth resources, as well as the deployment of federal and interstate resources, to provide necessary assistance in the Commonwealth's emergency response and recovery efforts; and

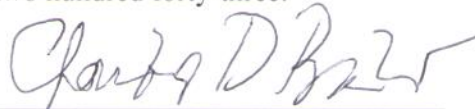
WHEREAS, the declaration of emergency will allow the Governor to issue such emergency orders as are necessary to protect the Commonwealth's residents and ensure the health, safety and security of their property;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, pursuant to the power provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 do hereby issue this proclamation that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a STATE OF EMERGENCY.

Pursuant to the powers granted to the Governor in Sections Five, Six, Seven, Eight and Eight-A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950, as amended, and other provisions of the law, I shall from time to time issue recommendations, directions and orders as circumstances require.

This proclamation of a STATE OF EMERGENCY is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until notice is given, pursuant to my judgment, that the STATE OF EMERGENCY no longer exists.

Given in Lawrence at 1:07 PM this 14th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America two hundred forty-three.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles D. Baker", written over a horizontal line.

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts