

SENATE No. 2188

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Adam G. Hinds

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act reforming the department of public utilities' proceedings for gas pipelines.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Adam G. Hinds</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>4/15/2021</i>

SENATE No. 2188

By Mr. Hinds, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2188) of Adam G. Hinds for legislation relative to the Department of Public Utilities' proceedings and gas pipelines. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1975 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act reforming the department of public utilities' proceedings for gas pipelines.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 94A of chapter 164 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

3 As part of the review of a contract with a term of more than 1 year for new gas pipeline
4 capacity, the department shall determine whether such contract is in the public interest. The
5 department shall not approve such a contract unless, in its public interest determination, the
6 department finds that: (i) such contract is necessary to satisfy demand for gas by, and is cost-
7 effective for, in-state ratepayers; (ii) such contract compares favorably to other reasonably
8 available options in terms of its impact on rates, the economy, environment, climate, local
9 communities, public health, safety and welfare; (iii) the parties to the proposed contract have
10 attempted, in good faith, to identify and evaluate alternatives that would reduce or eliminate the

11 need for private land takings or public land disposition including, but not limited to, fuller and
12 more long-term utilization of existing gas infrastructure, distribution system repairs and
13 upgrades, contracts for gas storage along unconstrained pipeline corridors, enhancement of peak-
14 shaving measures, and colocation of gas infrastructure with major roadways; and (iv) for
15 contracts exceeding a term of 3 years, the parties to the proposed contract have attempted, in
16 good faith, to identify and evaluate demand-side options to reduce or eliminate the need for new
17 gas infrastructure.

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 30A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
19 section 10A the following section:-

20 Section 10B. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10, in any adjudicatory
21 proceeding regarding any petition, request for approval or investigation of a gas company or
22 electric company, as those terms are defined in section 1 of chapter 164, the following shall be
23 permitted to participate as full parties in the proceeding:

24 (a) any municipality that is within the service area of such company;

25 (b) any member of the general court whose district includes ratepayers of such company;

26 and

27 (c) any group of not less than 10 persons who are ratepayers of the company.