HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3235 FILED ON: 1/21/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2776

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Lori A. Ehrlich

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 relative to greenhouse gases and arbor damage.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Lori A. Ehrlich	*8th Essex*
David Paul Linsky	*5th Middlesex*
Thomas M. Stanley	*9th Middlesex*
Frank I. Smizik	*15th Norfolk*
John W. Scibak	*2nd Hampshire*
Martin J. Walsh	*13th Suffolk*
Sean Garballey	*23rd Middlesex*
Jennifer E. Benson	*37th Middlesex*
Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.	*12th Hampden*
Cory Atkins	*14th Middlesex*
Edward F. Coppinger	*10th Suffolk*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*

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By Ms. Ehrlich of Marblehead, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2776) of Lori A. Ehrlich and others relative to greenhouse gases and arbor damage. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to greenhouse gases and arbor damage.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 21N of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Edition is hereby amended by adding after section 9 the following section:-

Section 10. Any potential hazard resulting from gas leakage to persons, property or the environment due to leaking methane as a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) shall be prescribed remedial actions. Each operator shall promptly respond to any notification of a gas leak, gas odor or any notification of damage to facilities by excavators or other outside sources to protect persons and property and limit the amount of GHG expelled to the atmosphere.

Any suspected damage to trees due to any gas leak from a utility owned pipeline should be reported to the company responsible for inspection by a qualified arborist. Repairs, damages and replacements will be subject to the rules and regulations of the department of public utilities and the executive office of environmental affairs.