



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

**SENATOR DONALD F. HUMASON, JR.**  
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March 19, 2015

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

RE: D.P.U. 14-140, "Motion into Initiatives to Improve the Retail Electric Supply Market"

Dear Chairman O'Connor:

We write to you in support of D.P.U. 14-140, "Motion into Initiatives to Improve the Retail Electric Supply Market," to rescind the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) previous order, D.P.U. 99-60 (2000) as related to bill re-calculation which has caused significant unexpected payments for ratepayers.

Ratepayers are currently being retroactively charged for utilizing the competitive market established by the deregulation of the electricity markets. Ratepayers are attempting to take advantage of the deregulated market by seeking more affordable alternatives to distributors such as Eversource and signing contracts with other suppliers only to face further charges for their efforts. Many have sought relief from the high costs of energy seen across the Commonwealth this winter. Under D.P.U. 99-60 distributors such as Eversource are required to retroactively bill consumers at the highest variable rate for the pricing term should the consumer leave their distributor within their established 6 month pricing term which runs from January 1<sup>st</sup>- June 31<sup>st</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup>-December 31<sup>st</sup> annually.

Ratepayers who choose to switch to competitive suppliers, without having been notified of D.P.U. 99-60 (2000), justifiably assumed that they were paid in full and their business with their supplier complete only to then receive high-cost, unexpected, bills charging them upwards of \$0.21/kw compared to the \$0.145/kw rates they had initially been charged. This unexpected charge comes on the heels of an electricity rate increase that was implemented January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 of 59%.

The consequence of D.P.U. 99-60 (2000) is that ratepayers are penalized for their attempts at saving their families or businesses money when many households are struggling with day-to-day finances. This does not encourage consumers to utilize the deregulated electricity market as intended by the

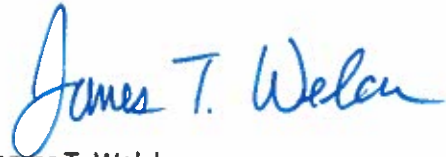
Commonwealth. These unexpected charges to consumers may cause unforeseen economic hardship forcing residents to choose between heating their homes and other basic needs.

On behalf of the ratepayers within our districts and the residents of Massachusetts that have suffered or may suffer in the future, we request that you approve D.P.U 14-140 to rectify this issue promptly.

We thank you for your attention to this important matter.



Donald F. Humason, Jr.  
State Senator



James T. Welch  
State Senator



Eric P. Lesser  
State Senator



John W. Scibak  
State Representative



William Pignatelli  
State Representative



Thomas M. Petrolati  
State Representative

Nicholas A. Boldyga  
State Representative

John C. Velis  
State Representative

Jose F. Tosado  
State Representative

CC: Jollette A. Westbrook, Commissioner

Robert Hayden, Commissioner