

That the Town adopt the following resolution relative to Protecting Consumers of Gas and Electricity from Paying for Leaked and Unaccounted for Gas, to wit:

WHEREAS...The cost of leaked and unaccounted for natural gas (UFG) is typically passed down from providers to consumers, and costs consumers over \$90 million annually in the Commonwealth, and

WHEREAS...The main component of natural gas is methane, which is the second largest contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide. Methane captures 84 times as much heat in the atmosphere over a twenty year period and 28 times as much over a 100 year period, and

WHEREAS...Leaking gas in the ground is harmful to vegetation and can kill valuable shade trees by depriving roots of oxygen, and

WHEREAS...Methane is a precursor to ozone formation that can decrease lung function and aggravate asthma, and

WHEREAS...There are 25,000 unrepaired gas leaks in the Commonwealth including 64 in Lincoln, and

WHEREAS...The town of Lincoln supports any measures regarding rapid repair of unrepaired gas leaks by utilities and strongly urges the Massachusetts Legislature to take action to support any measure to protect consumers and the environment regarding natural gas leaks, and

WHEREAS... Massachusetts House Bill 2683/Senate Bill 1845 is “An Act Relative to Protecting Consumers of Gas and Electricity from paying for Leaked and Unaccounted for Gas ” that seeks to protect all gas and electricity consumers, whether businesses, manufacturers, homeowners and municipalities or other gas users, from paying for UFG by prohibiting providers from including the cost of UFG, as well as the costs of reducing or remedying loss, in the rate base;

WHEREAS... According to H. 2683/S.1845, “Unaccounted for Gas” or “Lost and Unaccounted for Gas” (LAUF) represents the difference between the total gas available from all sources and the total gas accounted for as sales, net interchange, or company use and includes leakages or loss by other means, discrepancies in measuring and monitoring, variations of temperatures or pressures and other variations, and

WHEREAS... H.2683/S.1845 will provide economic incentive to gas providers to develop improved technologies and practices for transportation, distribution and storage; and

WHEREAS...Twelve other states, including California, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas have caps on how much customers pay for lost and leaking gas;

THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that Town Meeting requests the Board of Selectmen to endorse House Bill 2683/Senate Bill 1845 and to urge the Massachusetts Legislature to take action to support this measure to protect consumers and the environment by forwarding an embossed copy of this resolution to State Senators Michael Barrett and Jamie Eldridge, House Representative Thomas Stanley, House Speaker Robert DeLeo and Acting Senate President Harriette Chandler.