MOTHERS OUT FRONT
MOBILIZING FOR A LIVABLE CLIMATE

WHY GAS LEAKS MATTER

Natural gas is leaking near many of our homes, schools, and businesses every day.
Some pipes under our streets are over 100 years old and were laid down after the Civil War.

Natural gas is 95% methane, a potent greenhouse gas.
Methane traps 86 times more heat than carbon dioxide in its first 20 years in the atmosphere. (*IPCC report, Sept 2013*)

Gas leaks:

- Damage our climate faster than other emissions.
- Can explode.
- Harm our health.
- Kill trees.

Gas leaks erase all our progress to reduce greenhouse gas.

- Gas leaks are equivalent to 10% of our emissions. (*2015 PNAS Harvard/BU McKain study*)
- Gas leaks are not counted in our state Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory. When they are, they wipe out all our efficiency and conservation efforts to date.

You pay for leaks!

- Utilities pass the cost of this waste to us, the customers.
- We pay up to $135 million every year in Massachusetts. (*2013 Sen. Markey study*)
- In the Boston area alone, the value of lost gas is $90 million, enough to heat 200,000 homes. (*2015 PNAS Harvard/Boston University McKain study*)

Most of our gas in MA is fracked gas from Pennsylvania.

- More than 1,000 chemicals are used in its extraction, some of which are toxic.
- Chemicals include carcinogens, radioactive materials, neurotoxins, and breathing hazards that exacerbate respiratory conditions.
- We don't know what chemicals are used or carried in gas into our homes because gas producers and utilities don't have to tell us.

Numbers, volume, and explosive risk of gas leaks are underestimated in MA.

- A 2013 Boston University study found more than twice the number of gas leaks than were reported by utilities. (*Environmental Pollution, Phillips et al.*)
- A 2016 study found many more leaks than reported by utilities. (*MAPC/HEET)*
- A 2015 Harvard study found methane levels 2-3 times worse than estimated by regulators. (*Proceedings of NAS, McKain et al.*)
- A 2016 Boston University study found 7% of leaks are gushing 50% of the gas. Finding and fixing these leaks could solve half the problem. (*Environmental Pollution, Hendrick et al.)*
- That study also found 15% of leaks were classified as safe, but were potentially explosive.

Natural gas is a bridge fuel to nowhere.

More pipelines and fracked gas would bring:

- More financial, health, and environmental burdens to our state—all at our risk and cost as taxpayers, customers, and citizens.
- More risk for our children—their health, safety, and livable climate.

"...No additional pipeline gas capacity is needed to meet electric reliability needs."

(*2015 MA Attorney General Maura Healey's report*)

> "Under business-as-usual circumstances, the region can maintain electric reliability through 2030, even without additional new natural gas pipelines. Even under a "stressed system" scenario, there are cheaper, less carbon intensive ways to ensure electric reliability, like energy efficiency and demand response, that are less risky for ratepayers."

"Shrinking Need for Natural Gas" (*2016 Synapse study*)

> "Our findings show that any savings created by the Access NE pipeline will be outweighed by its costs, which are more than twice what the proponents have generally reported. We have also determined that the need for natural gas in New England will decrease dramatically within a few years of Access NE's construction, alleviating the capacity constraints cited to justify the pipeline."

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Gas leak map of Springfield, MA

To see leaks in your community go to squeakyleak.org.