



NEW JERSEY STATE ASSOCIATION OF PIPE TRADES

UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF PLUMBING AND PIPEFITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

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Mechanical Allied Crafts Council (MAC)



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Board of Public Utilities
Irene Asbury, Secretary
ATTN: BPU Docket Number: AX1750469
44 South Clinton Avenue
3rd Floor, Suite 314
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

October 2, 2017

AX17050469

Re: BPU Docket Number: AX1750469

AX17050469



Dear Secretary Asbury,

On behalf of the New Jersey State Association of Pipe Trades, thank you for giving our members the opportunity to submit this letter in support of the proposed new rules: 14:3-2A. As President of New Jersey State Association of Pipe Trades, I represent the skilled men and women that are proud to be plumbers, pipefitters and HVAC technicians in the State of New Jersey. I'm writing to express our support for longer term utility infrastructure investments that enable us to more efficiently upgrade New Jersey's aging utility systems.

Pipefitters play an important role in modernizing our aging gas system. The plastic mains we are installing for gas utilities across the State prevent loss of service during extreme weather and flooding, as well as ensure gas service is safe and reliable on blue sky days. For us to most efficiently plan for this work, we need to know that we are working on ongoing, long-term replacement projects. Long-term projects enable us to train our people, knowing we will have sustained work for them. We also know that to fund such infrastructure upgrades, utilities need to begin recovering their investments when they are built and put into service. Enabling utilities to recover investments soon after the work is completed gives them the ability to authorize continued capital investments without delay.

I want to recognize the BPU's efforts to date in approving good programs that have enabled our state gas utilities to upgrade their aging infrastructure and in turn create jobs for our skilled men and women. These new proposals are a continuation of those efforts. We hope more will be done to create more regulatory predictability.

We at the New Jersey State Association of Pipetrades fully support longer-term programs to allow for better planning and continuity of work for our people, and the vitality of our state.

Michael K. Maloney

President of New Jersey State Association of Pipe Trades
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