



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Daniel J. McKee
Lieutenant Governor



January 31, 2019

Dear Municipal Leader,

As Chair of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council and in the wake of the Aquidneck Island gas outage, I am focused on improving the emergency preparedness and response of utility companies operating in Rhode Island.

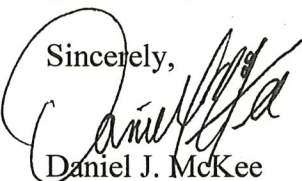
To that end, I plan to re-introduce the Utility Emergency Response Bill this session with Representative Brian P. Kennedy and Senator Roger A. Picard as lead sponsors.

This legislation sets performance standards for utility companies, improves communication between utility companies and our communities during an emergency and ensures that all fines collected for violations of the legislation are credited back to Rhode Island ratepayers.

In Massachusetts, this legislation allowed the state to recover millions of dollars from utility companies for insufficient performance. Last week, Massachusetts used this law to fine National Grid \$750,000 for poor preparedness and a lack of communication with local communities during the brutal storm in late October 2017. It is time to hold utility companies to a higher standard in Rhode Island and ensure our ratepayers receive the benefits.

I look forward to working with you to protect our communities during emergencies. All Rhode Island legislators and general officers have been notified about the introduction of this legislation. If you have any questions, please call my office at (401) 222-2371.

Sincerely,


Daniel J. McKee
Lieutenant Governor