

Economic Matters Committee
01/14/2021

House Bill 345 – Public Utilities – Gas Service Regulator Safety

POSITION: NEUTRAL

Thank you, Chairman Davis and members of the House Economic Matters Committee, for the opportunity to comment on HB345.

Safety—for customers, employees, contractors and the general public—is Washington Gas’ number one priority, and we are committed to delivering natural gas safely and reliably each and every day.

We have been in contact with Delegate Charkoudian since Sine Die last year and appreciate her willingness to work on this legislation.

We understand there may be additional amendments we’d have to review, but at this time, we have a neutral position and reserve the right to change that should the bill be amended.

The Committee should also be aware that PSC Order No. 89680, issued on December 18, 2020, approved WGL’s Proposed 2020 Mercury Service Regulator (MSR) Replacement Program which includes a survey of MSRs on our system and the removal of multi-family unit MSRs within three years and the removal of all other MSRs within five years.

While the equipment and action referenced in HB 345 is different than the Commission approved replacement plan, there will be overlap and we’ll have to work through how these two programs move forward efficiently.

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Brian Smith, State Government Relations and Public Policy Manager
M 202.945.7140 | bsmith@washgas.com

