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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Tim Solobay 

DATE: June 20, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship Memo #26: Natural Gas Distribution System Cost Recovery

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce House Bill 744 of the 2009-2010 legislation session. This is a bill that I introduced during my time in the House of Representatives.

This legislation would amend Title 66 (Public Utilities) to provide for a cost recovery mechanism for those natural gas companies and city natural gas distribution operations which engage in improvement projects to enhance, maintain or revamp distribution systems. Entities conducting these infrastructural improvements "may file tariffs establishing a sliding scale of rates or other method for automatic adjustment of the rates in order to provide for recovery of the fixed costs" associated with the enhancements.

This bill provides for requirements that when entities provide installation or replacement of a service connection line to a customer, they will become owners of and responsible for the line. They will assume all financial, operational and maintenance obligations associated with it. Additionally, the bill provides that all work be completed by authorized contractors and the work conducted will be subject to industry safety and quality standards.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Rachel Moore at rmoore@pasenate.com or 7-1463.