



TODD KAMINSKY
Assemblyman 20th District
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August 21, 2015

Mr. Ken Daly
President
National Grid-New York
175 E Old Country Road
Hicksville, NY 11758

Dear Mr. Daly,

I am writing to express deep concern about National Grid's recent decision to charge superstorm Sandy-affected homeowners for service line alterations and to urge that this fee immediately be waived. Until June 15, 2015, the gas service line alternation fee and associated reconnection fees were waived. However, I was dismayed to learn that it now costs \$700 to disconnect and reconnect service lines for Sandy-damaged homes. This will cause additional financial strain on Sandy victims who have already suffered greatly and who are still struggling to rebuild their homes and cope with rising debt. I urge you to revisit your decision to charge Sandy victims this unnecessary fee.

As you know, the South Shore of Long Island was hit particularly hard by superstorm Sandy and recovery efforts are still ongoing. Many families are now required to elevate their homes, either to comply with Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") regulations or to alleviate the burden of costly flood insurance. The elevation process, which is both lengthy and expensive, requires the gas line to be disconnected before lifting and then subsequently reconnected after the lift is complete. For homeowners who have just begun this arduous but necessary procedure, the \$700 charge to disconnect and reconnect adds yet another costly expense. It is an unfair penalty to those who were unable to elevate shortly after the storm—a near impossibility at the pace with which grant funds for elevation are released from government and other sources.

I urge your office to revisit your decision to charge a fee for service line alterations and take into consideration the hardships that many of your customers in my district still face. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Todd Kaminsky
Member of Assembly