

# NEW JERSEY STATE AFL-CIO

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June 11, 2015

Dear Members of the Board of Public Utilities:

### **RE: Statement in Support of PSE&G's Gas System Modernization Program**

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO expresses its strong support for the PSE&G's Gas System Modernization Program. This program is a win-win for consumers, public safety and job creation and we respectfully ask for your support.

Over the course of five years, the program will replace 810 miles of cast iron and unprotected steel mains and 55,000 steel services. These old mains are in the most need of repair and replacement because they are most likely to leak. Cast iron and steel make up 29% of the PSE&G system but account for 80% of the leaks. Replacing and upgrading them means improvements in reliability, safety and the environment (methane is a greenhouse gas).

Furthermore, as New Jersey continues to lag our neighboring states and the nation in job growth, this project will create much need jobs. It is estimated that 100 permanent jobs will be created and approximately 400 construction jobs.

Now is the time to act and to approve this project. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present our position on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Charles Wowkanech  
President

Laurel Brennan  
Secretary-Treasurer

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