



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, ROOM 213B, BOSTON 02133
TEL: (617) 722-1291
FAX: (617) 722-1014

GALE D. CANDARAS, ESQ.
STATE SENATOR
1ST HAMPDEN AND HAMPSHIRE

CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

VICE-CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH CARE FINANCING;
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER
PROTECTION AND
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

DISTRICT OFFICE:
17 MAIN STREET
WILBRAHAM, MA 01095
TEL: (413) 599-4785

gale.candaras@state.ma.us

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25, 2010

CONTACT:
Aaron Saunders
(413) 599-4785
Darlotte Justice
(413) 599-4785

Sen. Gale Candaras Request for Extension of Written Commentary to MA DPU on WMECO Rate Hike Request Granted

*Public urged to attend last DPU public hearing tomorrow, Thursday August 26, 2010 at
Springfield City Hall.*

(Wilbraham, MA) Senator Gale D. Candaras (D-Wilbraham) announced that her request for an extension of the time period for written commentary to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) has been officially granted by the DPU.

The original deadline for written comments or testimony was to have ended at tomorrow evening's DPU hearing in Springfield at City Hall. That hearing begins at 7:00 p.m.

Residents, small business owners and companies – any WMECO rate-payer who want their voices heard now has an extra week extension to get their testimony to the DPU. They can do this by mail to: 1 South Station, Boston, MA 02108; or by e-mail to either dpu.efiling@state.ma.us or selma.urman@state.ma.us.

“My office has received many calls about this issue. So many of my constituents whether they be residents, small businesses owners, and some of the region’s largest employers have expressed to me that the original deadline, something most of them are just learning about, was an impossible deadline. This rate hike request comes in the dog-days of summer. Many of these people are away or working hard to make up for employees and

associates who may be away. I made this request and am pleased that it was granted,” said Candaras.

“I still urge and encourage the public to attend tomorrow night’s last DPU hearing on this \$28.4 million dollar rate hike request and speak publicly to the DPU of their concerns. It is important for the DPU to hear directly from people how this will affect their home budget, their business or their employees. If rate-payers cannot attend, I encourage them to take advantage of this one-week extension we have won for them and send their concerns to the DPU immediately. This is our last chance to weigh in on this issue,” said Candaras.

Senator Candaras also offered to convey written testimony the DPU directly. Written testimony delivered to Senator Candaras at 17 Main Street, Wilbraham, Room 213B of the State House or by e-mail at Gale.Candaras@state.ma.us would be delivered by the Senator’s office to the DPU.