



**PLUMBERS AND GASFITTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 1**  
OF THE  
**UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING  
AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**  
**NEW YORK CITY**

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December 29, 2023

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Plumbers Local 1 was organized in 1889. For over 130 years the motto of Plumbers Local 1 has been “the plumber protects the health of the nation”. Every aspect of a plumbers’ daily operations encompasses this. The By-Laws of our Union were written to ensure that we are doing just that, protecting the health of the nation. Local 1 spends \$5 million dollars a year to train our members. Our workforce is employed by over 200 union contractors. Their training is all funded by the members. The 6,000 members of Local 1 are trained in code, theory and have all the certifications needed for safe installation of all sophisticated plumbing systems required for residential, commercial, institutional and industrial projects.

Plumbers Local 1 feels it is imperative to join this lawsuit against a NYC gas ban. Simply put, Local Law 154 (LL154) is a ban, not a plan. A true plan would allow for a reasonable and affordable transition that would include the use of biofuels like green hydrogen and carbon capture systems, to name a few. Instead LL154 eliminates all other possible solutions to this real problem. It is proposing a single option as a primary fuel source. This exclusion of all fuel gas options violates the federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA). Regardless of the policy intent, NYC must comply with federal law.

Meanwhile, the residents of NYC had no opinion or input. One source sounds like a true monopoly. Local 1’s members have a vested interest here that goes beyond the fact that they are plumbers. They are residents of NYC and are also concerned about climate change. What they are aware of, however, is that change can only be successful with a reasonable transition. Most New Yorkers realize the current infrastructure is not in place to support this law. In fact, upcoming big projects slated throughout NY State will add more stress onto this infrastructure. And still, NYS is still closing or decommissioning power plants throughout the state. A change as monumental as this was done WITHOUT a feasibility study by experts and leaders in the industry. A decision that was downright irresponsible and dangerous. All one needs to do is to google “NYC electrical grid” and you will see why there are serious concerns. Just “flipping a switch” is not a viable option.

The impending gas ban will undoubtedly cause serious harm to the entire Plumbing Industry. The loss of work hours on gas infrastructure projects (installed safely and up to code) as a result of the ban will lead to less work opportunities for our members, this will cause hiring freezes and outright layoffs. Our recruitment of un-represented plumbers into our union is strongly tied to projected industry outlook. This includes commitments we have made to all communities throughout NYC for access into the union. Simply put, if there are no jobs there is NO recruitment. Not only will the current and retired members of Local 1 be affected by this gas ban, so will the contractors and all future plumbers.

Paul O’Connor - Business Manager  
On behalf of the 6,000 members of NYC Plumbers Local 1

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