



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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Inside Sentry
KENNY VASQUEZ

Memorandum in Opposition

LEGISLATIVE

A8888 – Assemblywoman Simon, Assembly Ways and Means Committee

REFERENCE:

TITLE:

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to the provision of gas service to new customers.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:

A8888 would amend subdivision 4 of Section 31 of the Public Service Law to eliminate the requirement that utility companies cover the cost of the first 100 feet of gas pipeline necessary to connect a new customer to the gas system. Instead, it would require new applicants to bear the full cost of connection themselves.

REASONS FOR OPPOSITION:

Plumbers Local 1 strongly opposes Assembly Bill A8888, which seeks to eliminate the longstanding “100-foot rule” that ensures equitable access to essential gas service infrastructure across New York State.

This bill places an unfair burden on new gas customers—many of whom are working-class families, small businesses, and property owners in underserved or newly developing communities—by forcing them to absorb significant upfront infrastructure costs. This will limit access to affordable and reliable gas service and deepen inequities in energy access across the state.

The “100-foot rule” is a critical mechanism for promoting new housing and economic growth in areas where development is needed most. By shifting connection costs solely to new customers, the bill disincentivizes construction and development projects that create good-paying jobs and affordable housing.

Gas infrastructure projects provide high-quality, middle-class jobs for the skilled trades, including members of Plumbers Local 1. This legislation undermines those opportunities by slowing the pace of new gas installations and stalling vital infrastructure investment.

While we recognize the need to transition to renewable energy sources over time, the

current reality is that natural gas remains a vital energy source for heating homes, cooking, and powering businesses. The proposed change would create unnecessary financial barriers for those who rely on gas as a primary energy source—without offering viable or immediate alternatives.

A8888 advances a piecemeal approach to energy reform that ignores the broader context of New York's transition to a cleaner energy future. Instead of punitive cost-shifting, what's needed is a coordinated, long-term strategy that supports ratepayer equity, ensures energy reliability, and preserves good union jobs in the skilled trades.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul O'Connor". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Paul O'Connor
Business Manager