



**DENISE ANDREWS**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
2<sup>ND</sup> FRANKLIN DISTRICT  
ATHOL, IRVING, GILL, GREENFIELD,  
ORANGE, WARWICK

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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## **Rep. Andrews Seeks Public Comments on Storm Response**

With the lives of most residents and communities finally back to normal after the effects of an unseasonably early and heavy snowfall, state officials have announced they will hold eight public hearings on the response of utilities. In preparation for this, Representative Denise Andrews (D-Orange) is asking constituents of the Second Franklin district to share their experience and concerns with her office. Locally, a hearing on National Grid's response is to be held on December 7 at 7:00PM at the Belchertown High School. A hearing on the response of Western Massachusetts Electric Company is to be held on December 13 at 7:00PM at Greenfield High School.

Utility regulators will be looking at how utilities prepared for the storm, restored power after the storm and how they communicated with agencies and communities during the response. "My office wants to hear from residents about what worked, what didn't and what you would improve next time," shared Representative Andrews.

"We need to always look at how we take care of and service our communities and reaffirm what is working, address what is not and always improve." shared Andrews. "I heard wonderful stories of neighbors helping neighbors and communities pulling together to make sure the most vulnerable among us were checked on. One example being the town of Erving, which alerted residents by using the reverse 9-1-1 feature, neighbors shared generators and cordwood, they even made a request of the National Guard to knock on doors and deliver warm meals to elders and some of the most vulnerable. There are many of these stories, many lessons to be learned and best practices to be shared. It is important that every community have an integrated response plan that identifies vulnerable populations and then mobilizes resources, local, state and federal, to ensure all people remain safe during a disaster."

In addition to directly sharing your comments at one of the regional hearings in Belchertown and Greenfield, Representative Andrews requests that residents also share their perspective in writing, by either postal mail or email. Comments can address any area, including what worked and what might be improved. Letters should be mailed to Representative Denise Andrews, State House Room 443, Boston, MA 02133 and emails Mr. Brian Eno, Second Franklin Legislative Aide [brian.eno@mahouse.gov](mailto:brian.eno@mahouse.gov), Please

include "Subject: Perspective on Storm Response." I would like to thank everyone in advance for engaging to ensure we always have caring, safe and prepared communities," commented Andrews.

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