the
UPPER FELL'S POINT
Improvement Association/Asociación de Mejoramiento
upperfellspoint.org | PO Box 38315, Baltimore MD 21231

July 17, 2023

Re: Denial of Permission to Unlawfully Install Exterior Gas Regulator

Dear BGE,

The Upper Fells Point Improvement Association (UPFIA), Board of Directors supports the lawsuit filed June 23, 2023, by Attorney Thiru Vignarajah on behalf of City residents, property owners, and community organizations, refusing to give consent for the installation of external gas regulators and also suffering threats to terminate service if permission is not given.

Federal Regulations of installation of gas regulators states each must be installed in a readily accessible location and be protected from corrosion and other damage, including, if installed outside a building, vehicular damage that may be anticipated. Many of the external gas regulators installed on alley streets in Upper Fells Point and could easily be hit by cars causing explosions.

Some homes in Upper Fells Point, BGE installed internal regulators five years ago and they have not had any problems. The community is concerned about the safety of installing them outside because of the possibility of cars hitting them. Also, none are protected from snow, corrosion and other damage.

UPFPIA fully understands that BGE does not have permission to install new exterior gas regulators that are not mandated by state or federal law and create serious safety risks for residents, pedestrians, and vehicular traffic. Installation of new exterior gas regulators also degrades the character and value of properties in Upper Fells Point and all historic city neighborhoods, requiring BGE to do irreparable and highly visible damage as demonstrated in Charles Village, Fells Point, Federal Hill, Mt. Vernon and more.

These installations locks Baltimore into a gas infrastructure that reinforces our unsustainable dependence on fossil fuels, contributes to climate change, and hurts public health.

UFPIA trusts you will not proceed with your threat of discontinuing service, as doing so would constitute a knowing, deliberate, and punitive violation of Maryland regulations and BGE's contract.

Should you have any questions, please direct them to our attorney, Thiru Vignarajah, who can be reached by email at Thiru@JusticeForBaltimore.com.

Sincerely,

Wendy Bozel

Wendy Bozel
President of Upper Fells Point Improvement Association, Inc.