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# PRESS RELEASE

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March 2, 2012

## Washington Gas Light Requests \$29 Million Rate Hike Placing Public Service Commission in the Consumer Bullseye

On Wednesday February 29, Washington Gas Light Company (“WGL”) petitioned the Public Service Commission for a \$29 million increase in natural gas rates. “Frankly, I find it surprising that WGL would ask for such a huge increase when we have shown there are indications the Company is already earning more than allowed” said People’s Counsel Sandra Mattavous-Frye.

“This case puts the focus squarely on the Commission. Already grappling with a \$42.5 million rate increase request from Pepco and the suspension of that rate case, the Commission will also have to justify the impact of this proposed increase on District ratepayers and the local economy. Taken together, these rate requests push the additional utility burden sought from consumers to over \$70 million this year. It is not fair, nor sustainable to seek to pillage ratepayers at whim,” said the People’s Counsel.

“This filing is a total non-starter for consumers and I assure you OPC will thoroughly investigate and scrutinize WGL’s case to ensure that consumers are not burdened with unfair and unreasonable rates,” said Ms. Mattavous-Frye.