

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To express the sense of Congress regarding the need for a nationwide moratorium on electric and natural gas utility disconnections during the nationwide emergency relating to the spread of the novel coronavirus.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. MARKEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To express the sense of Congress regarding the need for a nationwide moratorium on electric and natural gas utility disconnections during the nationwide emergency relating to the spread of the novel coronavirus.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE NEED**  
2 **FOR A NATIONWIDE MORATORIUM ON ELEC-**  
3 **TRIC AND NATURAL GAS UTILITY DIS-**  
4 **CONNECTIONS DURING THE NATIONWIDE**  
5 **EMERGENCY RELATING TO THE SPREAD OF**  
6 **THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that, for the duration of  
8 the emergency involving Federal primary responsibility de-  
9 termined to exist by the President under section 501(b)  
10 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency  
11 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191(b)) with respect to the  
12 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), each relevant  
13 State regulatory authority and each electric or natural gas  
14 utility that sells electric energy or natural gas to a con-  
15 sumer should ensure that—

16 (1) no electric or natural gas service to a con-  
17 sumer is terminated;

18 (2) reasonable efforts are made to safely recon-  
19 nect electric and natural gas consumers that have  
20 lost service;

21 (3) no electric or natural gas consumer is  
22 charged for reconnection services;

23 (4) late fees and other penalties are waived for  
24 electric and natural gas consumers; and

25 (5) there are no increases in cost-of-service to  
26 electric and natural gas consumers.