

July 20, 2015

**Debra Howland, Executive Director and Secretary
NH Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street – Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301**

Re: DG 14-380 Liberty Precedent Agreement

Dear Ms. Howland:

As a local journalist and resident of Fitzwilliam for over 30 years, I believe that the Liberty precedent agreement under docket 14-380 is ill-conceived, and if approved would have an enduring negative impact on the economy and well being of my community and the entire state of NH. I urge the PUC Commissioners to soundly reject the proposed settlement for the following reasons:

It is unfair and unwarranted. Those of us whose homes, health, livelihoods and environment are threatened by this project will not be served by it. NED's excessive capacity is clearly not intended to meet the energy needs of NH, which exports more than half its electricity out of state. Even the PUC's own professional consultant, Melissa Whitten, recommended against approval of the original proposed Liberty agreement, which she cited as "speculative" and not "least cost". It could leave the company and ratepayers footing the bill long after limited fracked gas reserves run out. The NH OCA's assessment of cost allocation to consumers also stated "it is fundamentally unreasonable to require ratepayers now to unnecessarily bear significantly greater burden compared to ratepayers in the future". The NH Office of Energy Planning's 10-year strategy also strongly promotes "Diversity of Supply" as one of its principal components for a sound and stable energy policy. With New England already above 50% natural gas use, this contract along with the massive NED

project would defeat diversity.

Furthermore, the gas carried by the NED pipeline would not serve the vast majority of our homes and businesses. Fitzwilliam and most neighboring towns affected by NED can't even afford town water and sewer, let alone the substantial investment required to construct pipeline reduction facilities and install local distribution systems needed to access the gas. Such costs can't be justified for what appears, at best, to be a short-term fix. To charge ratepayers for an oversized, underutilized pipeline to Canada (and Europe) is like expecting us to pay for a major interstate highway with no on- or off-ramps for local traffic. We don't need NED.

What New Hampshire DOES need is to encourage its valuable, long-standing tourist industry. Here in Fitzwilliam, our historic town village, numerous antique shops, and the surrounding lakes, streams, hiking trails, and scenic vistas are an important part of our local economy. Yet, this speculative pipeline venture would cut treeless swaths through our surrounding woodlands and create new access roads, the locations of which have not even been disclosed to us. The construction, maintenance and operation of this intrusive pipeline infrastructure would also impart an industrial look, smell, and noise level to this tranquil countryside, forever destroying its allure to urban and suburban tourists who support our local businesses. It would disrupt sensitive conservation lands that spawn our treasured wildlife, which in turn support hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, bird watching, and numerous other forms of outdoor recreation not available in industrial areas. The possible siting of noisy, brightly lit and foul-smelling compressor stations would add insult to injury. Such development flies in the face of our town's Master Plan, carefully developed over many years by our town Planning Board and legally adopted by an overwhelming majority of voters at our annual Town Meeting. This document clearly cites the preservation of "rural character" as a primary will of the people.

In addition, our precious aquifers would be threatened by chemicals—those that are used in blasting, released from dirty fracked gas, or carried from the nearby Troy Superfund site if the

pipeline entrenchment were to act as a conduit for contamination, as cautioned by the Federal Government in regards to that costly clean-up project. We would be trading a future of clean, abundant drinking water for an uncertain energy future. Even more concerning is the safety risk inherent in this gamble. Our local volunteer fire departments would no longer be in charge of our safety in the event of an explosion. At a recent pipeline safety training session, our fire fighters were instructed not to try to extinguish any pipeline fires. We must wait for the pipeline company to turn off the valves and let the gas burn out. Why risk so much for so little gain?

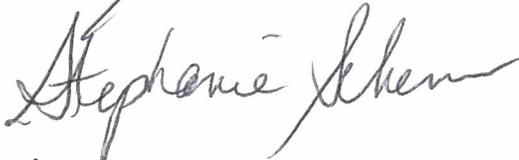
For the PUC to approve the sale of gas from Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline to Liberty Utilities is to approve any of the above-mentioned scenarios. Since Liberty Utilities is a subsidiary of the Kinder Morgan/Algonquin partnership, it seems that Liberty's relationship to KM/TGP goes beyond that of a "customer". It strikes many as a conflict of interest to allow a company to sell gas to itself. Even the NH Office of Consumer Advocate recommended against approval of the petition, stating, "the Company's analysis is not thorough."

Please consider these points and reject the agreement.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Sable
PO Box 712
Fitzwilliam, NH 03447



Cc: Fitzwilliam Board of Selectmen