Lee Oxenham
92 Methodist Hill Rd.
Plainfield, NH 03781

Debra Howland
Executive Director and Secretary
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord New Hampshire 03301

March 16, 2016

RE: DG 15-289 Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. dlb/aI Liberty Utilities for Approval of a Gas Franchise in Lebanon and Hanover, New Hampshire

Dear Ms. Howland:

I ask the Public Utilities Commission to deny Liberty Utilities' request for permission to commence business as a public utility to serve gas customers under a franchise encompassing the towns of Hanover and Lebanon, NH. This expansion of new fossil fuel infrastructure is unnecessary, ill-advised, and likely to prove an onerous burden on ratepayers.

NH's energy system is in a period of radical transformation as fossil-fuel combustion technologies are increasingly being replaced with more efficient and sustainable energy sources and technologies. It is certainly unwise at such a time for state agencies to consider locking in long-term projects with 40-60 year life-spans that are based on out-moded and inefficient technologies. Energy analysts from across the globe are warning of the likelihood of stranded costs from such ill-advised projects at the same time as they are making the case for the necessity of moving away from fossil fuels to protect the planet from more than a two degree increase in global temperatures.

NH's recently completed Ten Year Energy Strategy calls for us to work towards, and strategically invest in, energy efficiency and renewable and sustainable energy sources. It makes no sense, and flies in the face of state policy, to invest in fossil fuels. Energy conservation, increased efficiency, and renewables are the answer – not expanded fossil fuel infrastructure, with its attendant burden on NH's ratepayers and high probability of stranded costs.

Please deny Liberty's request for a natural gas facility in Lebanon, New Hampshire.

Sincerely yours,

Rep. Lee Oxenham
Sullivan Co., District 1