



State of New Hampshire

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCORD

August 29, 2016

To: Executive.Director@puc.nh.gov
Subject: Dockets DG 15-155 and DG 15-289

Dear Director Howland:

I call upon the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to reject the current effort by Liberty Utilities and Valley Green to keep their separate proposals alive by seeking a stay in the PUC proceedings on Dockets DG 15-155 and DG 15-289. In these motions they ask for extended time in which to cobble together a joint agreement which they apparently believe has a better chance of accomplishing their goal of bringing new gas infrastructure to the Upper Valley region, starting with Lebanon and Hanover. The individual proposals were bad proposals, and making them over into a single joint proposal will not change that fact.

This "Hail Mary pass" of a proposal for delay, would combine the two previously separate dockets into one, a mechanism which was explicitly rejected when it was proposed by an Intervenor, Ariel Arwen, over a year ago. The Commission already ruled against this proposal. Why would it renege on that decision now? PUC staff and the Office of the Consumer Advocate recommended against both of the original proposals. Why would the PUC rule otherwise?

Our communities are engaged in an effort to shift to 100% renewables. More and more citizens are rejecting the notion of natural gas as a bridge fuel, seeing it as a bridge to a future we do not want and cannot afford – one of rising temperatures, receding coasts, and increasingly severe weather. Our future depends on investing in energy efficiency, renewable sources of energy, and battery storage capacity – as soon as possible - not doubling down on our dependence on fossil fuels and expanding fossil fuel infrastructure.

Please deny the motions for a stay on these Dockets and reject both Liberty Utilities and Valley Green's proposals for a gas franchise. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Rep. Lee Oxenham, Plainfield