

State of New Hampshire

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCORD

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DE 16-241

PO Box G Keene, NH 03431

May 26, 2016

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

Subject: Docket DE 16-241 Eversource Energy Petition for Approval of Gas Infrastructure Contract with Algonquin Gas Transmission LLC

Dear Ms. Howland,

I am writing in support of the Office of Consumer Advocate's April 28, 2016 brief. Eversource's application is, in my view, quite clearly contrary to the public interest and the legislature's intentions.

The inequity of charging the cost of natural gas capacity contracts to electric ratepayers who receive no benefit from these contracts seems to me a novel and entirely unwelcome approach to funding a private company's venture. New Hampshire's electric ratepayers already pay some of the nation's highest rates and this proposal can only increase those rates. Eversource's application is certainly neither "just and reasonable" nor "prudent, used and useful".

Eversource's motion for confidential treatment is also a matter of concern, as it lacks merit and strains credulity.

During the past session the legislature initiated two relevant studies. The first, to be conducted by the House Ways and Means Committee, will consider HB 1101, prohibiting charges to New Hampshire electric ratepayers for the construction of high pressure gas lines. The second, by a joint committee of Senators and Representatives, will consider the matter of stranded costs, and is an outgrowth of HB 1148, relative to capacity contracts. This bill focused on the question of guaranteeing payment of gas

capacity contracts by electric ratepayers. I expect that both of these studies will result in legislation in the next legislature.

Sincerely,

James W. McConnell State Representative Cheshire 12

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