

August 30, 2016

Debra Howland, Executive Director  
NH Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10,  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Dear Director Howland,

Please do NOT approve Liberty Utilities (LU) Docket DG 16-770 Petition to Purchase Concord Steam. This proposal completely contradicts the goals of New Hampshire's 10 Year Energy Strategy to increase the diversity of our state's energy sources and to use more home grown energy such as biomass.

Liberty Utilities is pushing our state in the wrong energy direction by planning to convert the state's capital from steam heat to natural gas. Switching from steam heat to natural gas is a bad risk economically for many reasons --

\* Concord Steam uses home-grown energy for heat (biomass from NH forests, providing NH jobs), but with Liberty Utilities our tax dollars will be sent out-of-state to buy fuel in a volatile and unreliable energy market;

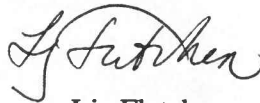
\* Shale gas wells have an average productive life span of only 8 years, much less than originally predicted. Prices will rise as supplies dwindle. For lasting energy security, well-managed NH forests can produce energy consistently over the long haul.

\* Conversion to gas heat will require state spending on new furnaces and other facilities -- a risky investment in an energy source whose abundance and cheapness are unlikely to last. Also a wasteful investment when existing steam infrastructure serves well.

\* NH is heavily dependent on natural gas for electricity (more than 50% of generation). It's very unwise to increase dependence on such a finite resource. For a healthy economy, NH needs more diverse home-grown energy sources.

Please keep New Hampshire on a secure energy path and reject Liberty Utilities petition to purchase and destroy Concord Steam Heat. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Liz Fletcher  
288 Marcel Road, Mason NH 03048