

September 16, 2016

Ms. Debra Howland  
Executive Director, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429

RE: DG16-770  
Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty  
Utilities and Concord Steam Corporation  
Joint Petition for Approval of an Asset Purchase Agreement

Dear Director Howland,

I have grave concerns regarding the proposed purchase of Concord Steam by Liberty Utilities. In this day and age, as the negative financial, environmental, and health implications of fracked gas become more and more evident, to convert facilities now using biomass to fracked gas is a step in the absolute wrong direction for NH. Fracked gas, contrary to industry hype, is NOT a clean bridge fuel to the future, but a disastrous investment in harmful, fossil fuel strategies.

Fracked gas threatens our air, water and health through the accidental *and* purposeful release of toxic emissions. Many of us have spent the past two years informing our legislators about the threats fracked gas poses to our state. Fracked gas companies have consistently denied or minimized these threats, sounding reminiscent of tobacco companies whose similar sole concern was maximizing their profits at our expense.

Yes, there are air quality concerns with the current setup but certainly these issues can be addressed *without* resorting to fracked gas - I know NH can do better than THAT. It will take both legislative and public will and determination to achieve a better plan. It is far harder to "bushwhack" your way to a new solution than blindly follow older, outmoded strategies but NH can and should demonstrate forward looking leadership, and sound fiscal and environmental policies by making the effort to do so. To be locked into another 20 years of high greenhouse gas emissions is unacceptable. Clean solar and wind energy alternatives are readily available and I understand that Green City Solar and other solar companies have not been offered the opportunity to upgrade the Concord Steam facility. This inherent bias is holding NH back from moving our state into a clean and sustainable energy future.

I ask that you *immediately* put a halt on the sale of Concord Steam to Liberty Utilities and reconsider this push for gas pipeline expansion in New Hampshire in favor of the many better energy alternatives available.

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Viglione  
14 Hubbard Road  
Greenville, NH 03048