

50 Timberpond Drive
Peterborough, NH 03458-1780
March 4, 2018

Via E-mail (Executive.Director@puc.nh.gov and puc@puc.nh.gov)

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

**RE: DG-17-198
Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities
Petition to Approve Firm Supply, Transportation Agreements and the
Granite Bridge Project**

Dear Ms. Howland,

Please file this letter as a public comment letter.

I am writing as a concerned citizen of New Hampshire, and also as a volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby (<https://citizensclimatelobby.org>). Because Citizens' Climate Lobby is focused on national carbon pricing legislation, I am aware that, if the prices of fossil fuels were raised sufficiently to reflect their true cost to society, they would no longer be competitive with alternative, non-polluting energy sources. I am also aware that progress is being made toward national carbon pricing legislation. It will come — perhaps not in this Congress, but in some future Congress — long before the retirement date of the proposed Granite Bridge pipeline. If built, the Granite Bridge pipeline will become a stranded asset.

I have read the comments of the Office of Consumer Advocate in relation to Liberty Utilities' request for a "protective order." I agree completely with the OCA. Any form of secrecy in matters affecting the public welfare leads immediately to suspicions of malfeasance. I would be ashamed of the State of New Hampshire and especially of its Public Utilities Commission if such secrecy were condoned.

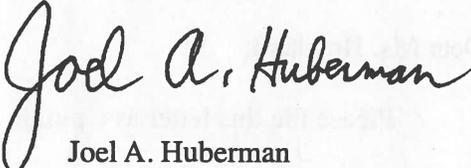
But the issue of secrecy versus transparency is not my primary reason for opposing the Granite Bridge project. My primary reason is science. America's recently released Fourth National Climate Assessment (<https://science2017.globalchange.gov>) is just one of many scientific studies concluding that humankind's burning of fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, and that those gases trap escaping heat, warming the Earth.

Scientists have concluded that preventing catastrophic global warming will require stopping the burning of fossil fuels as soon as possible, along with dramatic scale-up of methods for removing carbon dioxide (the major greenhouse gas) from the atmosphere. Given these constraints, the Public Utilities Commission should not approve any new fossil fuel infrastructure projects. A natural gas pipeline, like the proposed

Granite Bridge pipeline, is especially dangerous, because the whole process of natural gas production and transportation (fracking, drilling, pumping, piping, trucking, storing, and burning) is associated with gas leaks. Natural gas is mostly methane, a greenhouse gas that is a much more powerful heating agent, on a molecule by molecule basis, than carbon dioxide. Consequently, unless the leakage rate is kept low, natural gas can be worse for the climate than coal (<https://www.ucsusa.org/clean-energy/coal-and-other-fossil-fuels/environmental-impacts-of-natural-gas>).

In conclusion, I request the Public Utilities Commission to save future generations of New Hampshire citizens not only from the stranded costs that will be associated with the Granite Bridge pipeline, but also (and more importantly) from the additional global warming that the Granite Bridge pipeline will facilitate.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel A. Huberman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" at the beginning.

Joel A. Huberman