

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. DG 16-827

**Joint Petition to Establish Interconnection/Transition Fund  
for Non-Governmental Concord Steam Customers**

Petition to Intervene of Roy Schweiker

I, Roy Schweiker, respectfully move the Commission grant me intervention in this matter and state as follows:

1. I am a residential natural gas customer of Liberty Utilities not subject to the R-4 low income rate hence eligible for intervention pursuant to RSA 541-A:32 and PUC 203.17.
2. I oppose the subject petition because I feel it will be of no benefit to me or the other payers. My November Liberty Utilities bill was \$3.16 for the actual supply of gas and \$14.50 for distribution and other charges, so charges other than the actual gas are already an excessive and disproportionate part of my bill. The PUC should be trying to reduce these costs not increase them. The \$1 million excess of revenue over cost identified by Senator Feltes should be used to reduce rates for all customers rather than gifted to a select few.
3. Greater use of renewable energy is official state policy. Many downtown buildings have flat roofs suitable for solar, former coal bins that could be used for wood pellet storage, or enough demand to justify a heat pump system. Giving building owners a \$1 million bribe to convert from renewable to non-renewable energy is anti-green.
4. Concord Steam customers have been given a full year's notice that they need to replace their heating system, unlike ordinary gas customers who may discover their need for a new furnace only when theirs stops working midwinter and must replace it immediately.

5. The Concord City Council discussed the Concord Steam situation at its meeting of October 11, 2016, but no public hearing was held as the item was not on the agenda. There is no evidence that Concord residents as a whole support the petition and former city councilor Dick Lemieux has commented his opposition to the transition fund.

6. The City of Concord had already proposed to transition its own facilities to natural gas with an estimated payback of 6-7 years, hence it is to be expected that other customers may expect similar savings. Offering such customers a grant not a loan is unfair to existing customers who had to pay for their own heating systems.

7. The City of Concord has a Revolving Loan Fund (Fund #2701) "to provide loans to support housing, social service agencies, licensed daycare centers, and economic development projects that benefit low and moderate income people." Typical projects include heating system replacements. The fund presently contains \$505,634 and presumably more could be added by borrowing. Making loans at the city's cost of capital (near 1% as opposed to the 10% rate of return granted to Liberty Utilities) to be repaid through heating cost savings would seem to be an appropriate way to aid needy building owners without burdening taxpayers or other ratepayers, at the same time allowing customers to choose renewable energy if they wish.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Roy Schweiker*

Dated: December 16, 2016

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that on this 16th day of December of 2016, a copy of this Petition to Intervene has been sent electronically to the service list.

*Roy Schweiker*

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Roy Schweiker