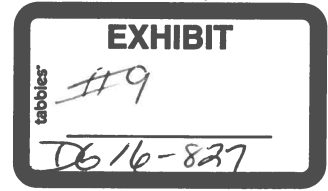




DG 16-827
Direct Testimony of Ronald Snow
February 8, 2017



1 **Q. Please state your name and position.**

2

3 A. My name is Ronald Snow. I am the director of Marketing/Development of the
4 Brain Injury Association of NH(BIANH) representing Steve Wade, Executive
5 Director. The office is located at 52 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH.

6

7 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

8

9 A The BIANH as one of the Joint Petitioners in this proceeding is seeking
10 Commission approval of said Petition in order to assist the non-governmental
11 customers of Concord Steam who are faced with incurring extremely high
12 conversion costs with very long payback periods, forced upon them by the
13 upcoming closure of Concord Steam Corp
14 For a small non-profit, the conversion costs could have significant impact as an
15 unbudgeted expense. Most of our funding sources(grants, donations) have
16 restrictions. It would be unethical and possibly unlawful for us to use funds
17 dedicated for a specific purpose or program. Thus, our only option would be to
18 use unrestrictive funds to cover the cost of the conversion.

19

20 **Q. Please provide some background on the BIANN and its mission.**

21

22 **Brain injury is not an event or an outcome. It is the start of a misdiagnosed,**
23 **misunderstood, under-funded neurological disease.** People who sustain brain
24 injuries must have timely access to expert trauma care, specialized rehabilitation,
25 lifelong disease management, and individualized services and supports in order to
26 live healthy, independent, and satisfying lives.

1 **After the trauma care is where the BIANH begins.** We assist survivors and
2 their families with the necessary supports and services they will need. **The one**
3 **question we hear the most is “What do I do now?”** That is where **our neruo-**
4 **resource facilitation program comes in.** I like to think of it as a garmin gps
5 helping the survivor navigate the social system and make sure they get the services
6 and supports that are necessary. Along this line, we have what we call our
7 **“Transition program”.** This program assists survivors transition from an
8 institutional setting back into their home or community. Our goal is that survivors
9 not just survive, **but rather Thrive.**

10 **There is no magic pill to cure a brain injury.** Prevention is the only way. We
11 are in a partnership with NH DOT on providing education and practical training to
12 teen drivers. Teen drivers make up the highest percentage of traffic accidents in
13 the state. This is mostly due to inexperience and distraction. We have created a
14 pilot program working with 15 high schools that focus on peer to peer mentoring.
15 In addition, we created a teen drivers toolbox which assists parents on how to
16 better teach their child how to drive.

17 We are currently working with **18,000 HS students in providing concussion**
18 **testing.** More importantly then providing the test, we contract with Dartmouth
19 Hitchcock Hospital to have an expert Neuropsychologist review the results. This
20 is especially important when there is a more challenging case or if there is some
21 other disorder present likes ADHD, depression...things along those lines. We are
22 doing a pilot study in 10 NH HS with the focus on return to learn and the school’s
23 concussion policy. Our study is to try to come up with best practice to help
24 students and teachers better understand the necessity of a stepwise process in
25 returning to the classroom.

1 We are a small nonprofit. Our funding comes from a variety of sources. We do
2 have a balanced budget. We do understand the long-term benefits of converting to
3 natural gas. However, the conversion, which we are currently in the process of,
4 will cost us approximately 37,000. The funding gap of unrestricted funds is a
5 challenge for our organization and very possibly going to affect our
6 programs/personnel. That is why we have joined this petition to offer some relief.

7

8 **Q. Does this complete your testimony?**

9

10 A. Yes.

11