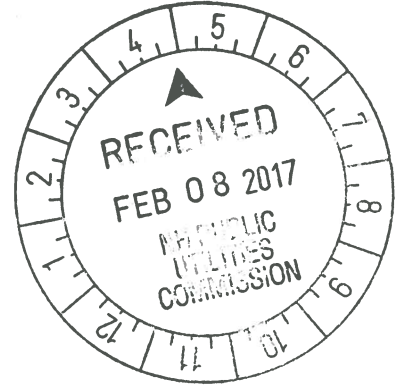


First Church of Christ, Scientist, Concord, New Hampshire
33 School Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301



February 8, 2017

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



Re: Docket No. DE 16-827 – Joint Petition to Establish
Interconnection/Transition Fund for Non-Governmental Concord Steam
Customers

Dear Ms. Howland,

I am submitting this statement on behalf of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Concord as a member of the Board of Trustees. This statement is offered in full support of the Petition to Establish Interconnection/Transition Fund for Non-Governmental Concord Steam Customers. Our interest in this petition and the relief requested derives directly from the unanticipated financial shock to our capital and operating budgets posed by the costs of conversion.

Our church has been a customer of Concord Steam for many years. Our heating plant is based squarely upon circulating steam throughout the main edifice and the Sunday School. When we learned of the planned discontinuance of service by Concord Steam we began investigating options and costs of replacement systems. Three different proposals were worked up by our consultant which ranged in estimated price from \$108,000 to \$115,000 to a high of \$138,500 to \$145,000. The estimates did not include modification and relining of an exterior chimney to meet code, or the possibility of

additional expense posed by asbestos abatement, structural engineering or other unanticipated expense revealed only as construction is underway.

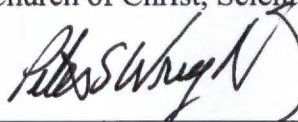
The price tag of conversion forces the church to consider difficult options such as a mortgage loan or other financing. Our operating budget has not included debt servicing in recent memory. We are in the middle of a major renovation project for which a capital campaign has been underway. The cost of replacing our heating system was not included in the detailed plans and projections upon which the campaign was designed. It is very difficult to see how the congregation will be able to absorb the unanticipated costs which conversion will entail.

We support the proposal for Liberty Utilities to create a fund to assist Concord's institutions and non-profits' conversion costs. It is reported that Liberty Utilities supports the creation of such a fund to help alleviate the unanticipated financial consequences for customers as they convert. The settlement agreement filed with the Commission around February 6 indicates that the Office of the Consumer Advocate finds the petition to be in the public interest, with the modifications stated in that agreement. We hope that the Commission will see that approving this fund is in the public interest and accordingly approve it.

Respectfully submitted,

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Concord, NH

By:



Peter S. Wright, Jr., Board Member