

Hello-

I am writing to provide comment on New Hampshire's energy strategy plan.

I fully support the idea that New Hampshire must come up with a strategic plan to meet future energy needs, and I fully support working with our regional partners to pool our resources and leverage our larger influence as a region.

What we do next will affect at least a generation of New Hampshire and New England citizens, and we must see the larger picture. If we make the false choice between energy security and environmental protection, we are sacrificing the long term health, safety and way of life of New Hampshire for short term easy answers and profits.

We must take the bold step of not only supporting renewable energy, but of curbing the use of fossil fuels.

We must create a regulatory climate that protects people from corporate profiteering at the expense of private property rights and the health and safety of our population and our environment.

We must not allow fossil fuel and hydro energy interests to dictate our future.

As a resident of Brookline, NH, I now find myself joining with the residents of Brookline, Hollis, and 29 towns in Massachusetts to fight an unnecessary and dangerous gas pipeline that is being foisted on us under false assumptions that it will meet our energy needs. It is a textbook example of how New Hampshire's energy plan must change.

The pipeline is for transmission of fracked natural gas. We have a moral obligation to meet our energy needs without resorting to methods that destroy other communities, whether in New Hampshire, New England, anywhere else in the United States or in Canada or around the world.

The pipeline would increase our dependence on fossil fuels. Once in place, there would be a financial and regulatory resistance to increasing use of renewables. It aligns our energy policy with fossil fuels for decades to come.

The pipeline is being financed in a scheme that allows a tariff on our electric rates, despite the huge profits that it will generate for the energy companies. Socializing risk while privatizing profit and other benefits must stop being our policy.

The pipeline threatens private property rights and conservation land. We must use existing rights of way. We must not expand energy infrastructure at the cost of eminent domain used for private enterprise.

The pipeline is larger than we need to meet peak demand, by a huge factor. It is not the job of our government to promote a project that is so obviously designed to meet a future plan for export.

A project so clearly designed for export calls into question whether it will meet our peak needs when it is called upon to do so, and once we begin exporting this gas, any price advantage, any chance that the abundance of gas will contribute to price stabilization will disappear faster than we can write the checks.

First, we must end our dependence on fossil fuels. They are finite, they are becoming more expensive as they become more rare, and they are destructive to our environment and our health. The energy companies that push fossil fuel solutions to our future energy needs are interested in near-term profits, not long term solutions.

Next we must not rely on giant hydro projects to meet our needs. The flooded land and damaged wildlife habitats, and the destructive transmission lines make this solution only slightly less disruptive and destructive than fossil fuel reliance.

We must become a leader in renewable energy. With conservation and a strong, unified effort towards renewable energy we can ensure that New Hampshire leads the nation in 21st century technology, rather than fall behind with 19th century pollution and environmental degradation.

I urge, in the strongest possible terms, Governor Hassan and our elected and appointed officials to not only avoid aligning our energy policy with the interests of the fossil fuel industry, I urge you to make New Hampshire a leader in the renewable energy future. If we must invest in infrastructure, as it is clear we do, then we must do so in a way that ensure a cleaner, healthier future for New Hampshire.

With fossil fuels and giant hydro projects, we remain dependent on outside interests to meet our energy needs. With conservation and renewables, we increase our control over our energy supply, we begin to lessen our dependence on energy that destroys our environment, and we embrace a future where American technology and New Hampshire ingenuity drive our energy policy and our economy.

Sincerely,

Keith F Thompson
Brookline, NH