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Testimony supporting HB 5410, An Act Concerning Gas Companies' Cost Recovery of Lost and Unaccounted for Gas

Commissioners,

Please support HB 5410, An Act Concerning Gas Companies' Cost Recovery of Lost and Unaccounted for Gas, which will hold the natural gas companies responsible for the costs associated with leaking gas in their lines.

When monopolized utility companies are permitted to push the cost of their mistakes or poor maintenance directly onto the consumers, it is a prescription for sloppy maintenance. We witnessed the result of the lack of regulations regarding infrastructure maintenance when CL&P and NU cut line maintenance, and took down the electric grid during recent storms.

The State of CT is becoming ever-more dependant on natural gas, a new course that will require vigilant oversight by PURA and the legislature.

When gas lines leak, they produce methane, a dangerous greenhouse gas, and it also drives up the cost to the consumer. If the utility is not held accountable for the waste, there is no incentive for them to change. PURA must hold the gas companies responsible for the leaks in their system, which will benefit residents of CT financially, and environmentally.

Thank you,

Jean de Smet

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