

CT Committee on Energy and Technology
March 17, 2015

CT General Assembly
HB 6985- An Act Increasing Natural Gas Transportation Capacity

I am Joseph Rose, President / CEO of the Propane Gas Association of New England; here today representing the 101 Connecticut based member companies of our organization who sell propane to nearly 200,000 Connecticut consumers.

Our organization and the 2500+ employees that work for us, strongly oppose the continuing attempt to subsidize natural gas expansion in Connecticut. Clearly we would all like cheaper electricity but allowing electric utilities and PURA to go out and speculate on long term gas transportation on the backs of Connecticut consumers is not right. If the natural gas utilities want more pipeline capacity let them pay for it, not taxpayers.

In most industries consumers can choose to enter into a long term contract within the parameters of the Department of Consumer Protection but this bill would force all consumers to participate regardless of choice and while there could be some savings there just as likely could be additional costs!

Energy markets are not predictable and a long term take or pay agreements of typically 20-30 years for the transmission of gas could place Connecticut taxpayers at a significant disadvantage if a new way of producing electricity is developed or other energy sources become cheaper than natural gas. Three years ago who would have believed that crude oil would be in the \$50 range today? Energy purchasing is a risk and forcing the ratepayers to participate regardless of choice seems like one more cost shifting measure promoting natural gas.

Sincerely,



Joseph U. Rose
President / CEO