

Shaiken, Benjamin

From: Amanda Kenyon <alee2120@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 2:38 PM
To: ETestimony
Subject: SB 1074, SB1078, HB 6985

Dear Senator Doyle, Representative Reed, and members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

I am writing to express concern regarding three raised bills before the committee: S.B. 1074, "An Act Concerning Municipal Tax Abatement for Natural Gas Expansion"; S.B. 1078, "An Act Concerning Affordable and Reliable Energy"; and H.B. 6985, "An Act Increasing Natural Gas Transportation Capacity."

All three of these bill include provisions to shift the burden of cost for operating natural gas pipelines at capacity, from gas distributors to taxpayers or utility ratepayers. I do not support public financing of dangerous, dirty natural gas expansion.. The public would benefit from the development of clean energy sources, but natural gas is anything but clean.

At least half of the gas entering our state now is fracked, and that percentage is rising. Fracking is an environmentally toxic practice that is wreaking havoc on those communities where it occurs. Fracking is associated with earthquakes, poisoned water, and adverse health effects in humans and animals. Fracked gas contains trace radioactive chemicals and other carcinogens that derive from the fracking process. New York State and at least one town in Texas have banned high volume hydraulic fracturing. So far, one town in Connecticut, Washington, has enacted a ban on fracking waste, and surely more communities will pass similar ordinances, as people become increasingly aware of, and resistant to, the direct and indirect environmental dangers that arise from fracking shale gas.

I am against increasing our state's ever growing dependence on natural gas, because switching from one fossil fuel to another fossil fuel to power and/or heat our homes has no climate benefit. Due primarily to fugitive emissions of methane, which has a greenhouse gas potential that is 86 times worse than carbon dioxide over 20 years, burning gas provides no climate benefit relative to burning oil or coal. The actual small benefit to be gained by switching from coal to gas for electricity, which is a reduction in the amount of particulate emissions, is not applicable in this case, as Connecticut is not retiring our single coal plant but only increasing the use of gas. (Howarth, R.W. 2014. A Bridge to Nowhere: methane emissions and the greenhouse gas footprint of natural gas. Energy Science and Engineering 2(2): 47-60.)

The five interstate pipelines that Spectra Energy and Kinder Morgan plan to construct in Connecticut will originate in the fracking fields to our west and south. According to the US Department of Energy, the majority of the gas that will be piped through these large diameter, high pressure, new pipelines will be shipped to the coast at Baileyville, Maine for transport to the Goldboro LNG plant in Nova Scotia. From there, the liquified gas will be exported, so the gas distributors can make greater profits than are available domestically. The frackers have been to some extent the victims of their own success, as the glut of fracked gas they are producing has depressed prices.

The state's plan to convert 280,000 new customers to gas from oil or other home heating systems, and construct 900 miles of intrastate gas pipeline, suggests that there is not a true "scarcity" of natural gas. There is, apparently, a scarcity of natural gas customers. These conversions are subsidized in part by a charge on ratepayers.

I support truly clean energy programs in the state, and appreciate that creating a cleaner environment and safer climate is a legitimate and beneficial use of the public's money. However, these bills don't rise to that standard. Indirectly, public money would support fracking. In addition, public money would support the transport of gas that is designed primarily for export. Billions of dollars invested in new fossil fuel infrastructure subverts the change to a clean energy future that most Americans want. The time is now to make the change to prevent catastrophic global heating and irreversible harm to our planet.

I respectfully ask that you do not pass S.B. 1074, S.B. 1078, or H.B. 6985, out of committee in their present forms.

Sincerely,

Amanda Kenyon

Canton, CT