

**Shaiken, Benjamin**

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**From:** April Scheller <breakwithbondage@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2015 3:49 PM  
**To:** ETTestimony; breakwithbondage@aol.com  
**Subject:** Natural gas electric rates

To whom it may concern in the state government,

I am writing you to raise objection to problematic legislation:

SB 1078 An Act Concerning Affordable and Reliable Energy

**RHB 1078-AN ACT CONCERNING AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE ENERGY.**" The bill reads in part:

Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) In any rate application filed with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority on or after July 1, 2015, by any electric distribution company, the electric distribution company may seek cost recovery for the costs of purchasing new natural gas capacity either through procuring contracts for new pipeline capacity **or otherwise**, as directed by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection pursuant to section 4 of this act.

HB 6985 An Act Increasing Natural Gas Transportation Capacity

**RHB 6985-AN ACT INCREASING NATURAL GAS TRANSPORTATION CAPACITY.**

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) An electric distribution company may enter into a long-term contract for the purchase of natural gas transportation capacity for the benefit of electric distribution company customers. Such contract shall be submitted to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for its review and approval. The net benefits received or costs incurred by the electric distribution company as a result of such contract shall be either distributed to **or recovered from all customers** of the contracting electric distribution company through the federally mandated congestion charge as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes.

**RSB 1074 An Act Concerning Municipal Tax Abatement for Natural Gas Expansion**

I am a stake-holder constituent in Middletown CT on disability and have seen my electric rate go up already. It is an undue hardship to support fracking on an electric bill, compared to solar and wind energy possibilities... so called natural gas or fracking is a costly fossil fuel that produces harmful chemical leaks and traumatic pipeline accidents on repeat which events severely impact the physical and mental health of disabled folks in the negative. Six people in my town lost their lives in the Kleen Energy accident, six local families lost loved ones and have to deal with it forever after... it was not the first natural gas accident to rock my world although

I've scarcely lived at 33, because there have been a lot more fires and lives lost around the country the whole time I've been alive and kicking.

I was not an adult before I had witnessed the sky burn in Castle Rock WA, so it's no longer something I'd need to imagine, before I saw this I had indeed never ever dreamed that certain fire could float through the atmosphere like a quilt alight. I mean a literal sheet of burning hell just waiting to befall and envelope whatever is in the path of the wind, and oxygen only feeds normal fire from burning fuels on the ground. We were lucky with the wind that day. If you think I'm exaggerating take a look at another one that was filmed and you will see that burning quilts of sky-fire are no invention of my personal mind:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyMbaZ9FVjA> I didn't see the worst of it and what is much more frightening, neither did those poor renters after losing only the contents of their homes or their cars. As Middletown and many other communities have proved, evacuation is not always fast enough to save lives, that is no criticism of responders but with natural gas there just cannot always BE time enough. There are costs that cannot be paid.

Meanwhile, even on days the pipelines aren't simply imposing a burning hell, methane contributes faster than carbon to climate change bringing about those overheated days that are deadly to many of the disabled on medications, I would not have to listen to any warnings from community medical professionals about sudden death I understand had it not been for industrial greed creating the need for certain persons to avoid the pleasures of our sunny days. Many grandmothers and grandfathers would have also lived through more birthdays and anniversaries for families. Friends with asthma around dirty energy factories have reason to fear invisible emissions currently, so while I know mine own may worsen as the air gets worse, I'm even more immediately afraid for others with disabilities in the regard of air quality decline as unclean fuels expand both geographically and in capacity to pollute.

Please do not allow deadly power companies to force disabled and elderly citizens in the state to foot their expenses without a choice in the matter of expenses both financial and in health. Lower income home-owners may have some alternatives but laws have barred the renter's ability to go solar as I would much prefer... please work toward a subsidy for safer solar and wind projects instead of allowing the federal government to subsidize the deadly power companies by changes to state regulations. It makes sense to start working in public housing projects to give the same alternatives for low income renters as are already boosting the household incomes of those who can already afford mortgages because HUD would save on my rental allowance if my electricity came from a solar cell on the roof as it too increases its allowances to pay our rent to our landlords based upon our current electric bill expenses. You allow raised electric expenses for frackers and you are indeed allowing the energy companies to steal from the federal programs intended for the disabled in the state. I'd much rather that my rent portion went up and my power bill lowered while saving HUD money and myself from asthma and PTSD triggers which would surely come from more leaks and explosions due to dirty energy.

You know, even when our government avoids paying some low-income electric bills it already tends to pay for the unpaid health expenses due to the accidents of dangerous industries when the uninsured or government-insured renter later suffers. As homeowners are a vanishing class, the proposal to foot the bill for the dirty power companies in our state will certainly affect later your public funding allowances from the federal government, and if they fail to provide for the damages in increase to us you will see more pressure from the public to compensate at the state funding level for the differences, it's just the way these tragedies affect us all... so why put us through the emotional and physical agony all to protect the interests of rich companies that are not even trying to truly green? I hope I can have faith you will truly acknowledge the point & protect the public.

Please try to better balance regulatory interests. Thank you in advance for your consideration of those constituents on federal programs who also pay some state taxes, the uninsured who likewise pay some state taxes, and for all the other higher-income taxpayers who are also affected by corporations who increasingly avoid paying business expenses as well as taxes, not out of need but for greed. Do not be the agent that allows federal programs to subsidize a costly and sadly deadly trade that profits despite repeated losses to economies and to life. There are much better ways to support the public than to believe these industries are merely trying to serve us with this natural gas.

Sincerely,

April Fawn Scheller

Middletown CT