

9/3/16

Dear Director Howland:

I ask the Commission to deny the petitions for gas franchises in Dockets DG 15-155 and DG 15-289. PUC staff and the Office of Consumer Advocate have both recommended against granting either Liberty Utilities or Valley Green Natural Gas a franchise, citing the lack of customer commitments and the lack of viable business plans.

Communities don't passively wait for new fossil fuel deals to be made; they operate in the interest of both customers and climate, and are coming up with alternatives. The time has come for the move away from fossil fuels. One such alternative is an initiative launched by the communities of Hanover and Lebanon to get to 100% renewable electricity by 2030 and full renewable portfolios by 2050. We have no time to spare, so I urge the PUC to accelerate its decision, especially because more time won't make two weak, unpopular proposals better.

Please act quickly to reject both Liberty Utilities and Valley Green's proposals for a gas franchise. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Carol DiPirro