

**From:** Noah <[mguvu@netscape.net](mailto:mguvu@netscape.net)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 17, 2020 1:02 PM  
**To:** PUC: <[PUC@puc.nh.gov](mailto:PUC@puc.nh.gov)>  
**Subject:** DG 20-105: Liberty Utility Rate Increase for Residential

**EXTERNAL:** Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

---

To whom it may concern,

I am writing about Liberty Utilities' proposed rate increase to residential customers' gas supply charge price (DG 20-105). While I understand that Liberty Utilities is a business operating in a capitalist society we need to be cognizant of the current, unprecedented times we're in. According to the New Hampshire Employment Security's Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 release, the state's unemployment is sitting at 6%. Additionally, wage growth went from approximately 5% , at the beginning of 2020, to sub-0 growth (equating to a wage shrinkage) during the beginning of this pandemic (source: Trading Economics- <https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/wage-growth>). According to a U.S. Federal Reserve comparative analysis of different economic recovery forecasts, even the most optimistic does not have 100% recovery until this quarter. As evident as things are now we can say that optimistic forecast is probably wrong. The majority of forecasts have this recovery going into the early quarters of 2021 (source: <https://www.reuters.com/article/usa-fed-recovery-idUSKBN2670BB>).

I believe Liberty should be permitted to modestly raise its rates in the future and at some point I may very well be paying them. But now is not the time for businesses, like them, to be looking for a "... reasonable rate of return..." (DG 20-105, ORDER NO.26,412, September 30, 2020 , pg 3). Many businesses are struggling to even stay alive but language, like the above stated, does not appear to come from a place of necessity but out of a desire for continued return on investment. To New Hampshire's public representatives- is now the time for us to look to capitalize on the greater New Hampshire populous or to empathize, embrace the struggle, and make some sacrifices for the well being of the majority of those who call New Hampshire home?

Thanks for your consideration,  
Noah Sepetys