

Dear Governor Shumlin,

We are leaders in Vermont—business owners, nonprofit executives, faith leaders, agriculture stewards, academics, and community representatives—who have followed the saga of the Addison Natural Gas Project (ANGP) over the last few years. For the health and economy of our state we wish to say, Enough. We need to close this painful chapter in our state’s history and turn our positive energies toward a prosperous and sustainable future.

Pipeline construction is at a logical stopping point. The “looping” portion of the project, the first 11 miles that was intended to bring reliability to gas customers north of Williston, is completed. Any additional pipeline would become a transmission line, rushing more fossil fuels through Vermont.

The world is different than it was four years ago when the Department of Public Service and Vermont Gas were planning this project, and we are in the fortunate position of having more information. What may have looked sensible then, or even in 2013, does not now. Here is a partial list of new information since the project’s conception:

- We have learned that for the planet to maintain a living habitat, 80% of the known fossil fuel reserves must be kept in the ground;[i] new pipeline increases fossil fuel extraction.
- We now know that the global warming potential of methane (natural gas) is more than 86 times greater than CO2 over a 20-year period.[ii]
- Investing in fossil fuel infrastructure prevents investment in green technologies.[iii]
- The project cost has increased 220-256% since 2011,[iv] the burden of which would be borne by gas customers for decades.
- The higher price tag has pushed out the return on investment to over 34 years; and current customers can’t be expected to carry this burden without tangible benefit.
- There is no proven correlation between pipelines and economic growth; Addison County already exceeds Franklin County in economic metrics.[v]
- New technologies, such as heat pumps, combined with an investment in good old fashioned buttoning up, would cost households less and be a more enduring solution in our climate-conscious era.
- Fuel oil prices are predicted to continue to decline into 2016, [vi] so even a minimal rate increase of 6% for gas customers would surpass the price of fuel oil. Further, it would take these consumers more than 25 years to recover conversion costs, which could tally over \$9000.

We trust that you will read these updated facts earnestly because you demand excellence and consistency from your climate change policies. We hope that you agree with us that the ANGP’s carbon footprint must stop where it is, at 11 miles—a

painless juncture at which to adjust policy. A signal of your agreement would have global implications by adding to the gains made at the Paris Climate Talks, by acknowledging the understanding that to survive we must update our technologies and habits, and by putting Vermont in an enviable leadership position on climate.

Sincerely,

[undersigned]

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