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CLIMATE SOLUTIONS CAUCUS  
MARCH 2, 2017

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Commissioner Tierney,

As legislators committed to a clean energy future and the protection of all Vermont citizens and ratepayers, we have serious concerns surrounding the Certificate of Public Good (CPG) granted by the Public Service Board to Vermont Gas Systems for the Addison Natural Gas Pipeline. Issues concerning the pipeline include, yet are not limited to:

1. **Cost Containment Issues:** The project, originally approved on the basis of an \$86 million budget, has now exceeded \$165 million. Vermont ratepayers should not have to bear the burden of cost overruns.
2. **Failure to Comply with both Federal and Vermont Certificate of Public Good Construction Standards:** The project has been given at least two "notices of probable violations," yet construction was continued unabated even though there is no indication that the problems had been adequately remediated. The Federal Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration responded to a request by Vermont citizens and is undergoing an investigation into the project. Citizen groups continue to identify numerous, significant concerns that call into question the physical integrity, safety, and reliability of the pipeline.
3. **New Understanding of Methane Emissions:** Since the CPG was granted, knowledge of the impact of natural gas on the environment and human health has significantly advanced, and directly contradicts claims that natural gas is "clean" or a viable "bridge fuel" that reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
4. **The Lack of "Need" for the Pipeline and Changes in Fuel Prices:** Since the CPG was granted, demonstrable need for the ANGP by consumers has become ever more difficult to identify. The industry itself now projects that natural gas prices will increase permanently, beginning this year.
5. **Failure to Act on a Long-Standing Request that Vermont Gas Seek a New Permit:** In 2014 the Conservation Law Foundation filed a request to re-examine the pipeline's permit due to mismanagement and cost overruns. That request has not been acted on in the two years since it was filed.

It is due to these considerations that we call on the Public Service Department to request the Public Service Board re-open the Certificate of Public Good associated with the project and conduct a thorough review of the cost, safety, environmental considerations, and need for this project.

Sincerely,  
  
Chair Sullivan  
Chair McCormack