

Dear Ms. Morrell,

Recent Acadia Center analysis showed that Connecticut is losing ground in the battle to lower our greenhouse gas emissions. Ouch. The legislature set a goal of reducing GHG by 80% of 2005 levels by 2050. How can we possibly get from here to there?

Not with increased dependence on fossil fuels. Building new pipelines for fracked natural gas transmission will not turn our use away from fossil fuels, but rather increase use of natural gas instead of oil. Since methane emissions are more harmful in the short term than oil emissions, this "bridge" will likely explode under us. Maybe in the form of a truck bomb going to the proposed infusion station on Route 6.

Legislation allowed CT Ratepayer to be charged to build a larger natural gas pipeline through CT. In Massachusetts, where the pipeline is privately funded, the proposal was withdrawn due to lack of market demand for natural gas. CT Ratepayers should not guarantee a private infrastructure improvement that has no market value.

With the new information we have on the harmful effects of fracking and methane, it is clear that CT needs to re-write our Comprehensive Energy Strategy to emphasize clean renewable energy sources and to immediately change direction away from fossil fuels, stop support of pipeline increases, and stop using electricity purchases to fund private development of pipelines.

We suggest that DEEP wait for the recommendations of the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) before writing CT's new Comprehensive Energy Study. The GC3 study promises to be driven by data, metrics and scientific analysis, with the intention of measuring and reaching the 80% reduction goal our legislators wisely set.

Sincerely,

*Jean de Smet*

Chair  
Town of Windham Energy Commission