

THE PROBLEM

When new natural gas pipelines are developed, ratepayers are asked to foot the bill. A portion of a tax on utilities has been designated for new fracked gas infrastructure and development, even as studies show the demand for gas is falling. Ratepayers should not be forced to pay for a dying energy source.

According to a study published by the National Academy of Sciences, methane leakage is twice as damaging to our climate as carbon dioxide. Methane is also highly reactive, and we have seen significant damage done by explosions in neighboring states such as 2018 Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts gas explosion causing fatality, 80 individual fires and the evacuation of over 30,000 people. Thankfully, low- and zero-emission forms of energy are replacing fracked gas in New England and across the country. As the region and nation shift to cleaner sources of energy, there is even less call for new pipelines--particularly if it will be funded by ratepayers.

In addition, only pipeline developers stand to benefit from building this infrastructure. They will get a high, guaranteed rate of return for 20 years, funded by ratepayers, whether the pipelines are used or not.

A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

Connecticut must reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and not lock our state into a costly, needless gas pipeline. It is in Connecticut consumers' best interest for the state to embrace alternative strategies--including aggressive energy efficiency measures, removal of barriers to scaling up renewables and deployment of targeted distributed energy resources--as superior options to investing in new gas pipelines.

Investments in clean energy sources will also curb a growing public health problem due to the burning of dirty fossil fuels, such as natural gas. While the state has made progress in developing renewable energy by supporting over 2,000 mw of wind, Connecticut continues to advance new gas power plants – most recently in Killingly. Connecticut lawmakers should repeal the pipeline tax and strongly consider restrictions or bans on all future fracked gas infrastructure. It is dangerous, too costly to ratepayers and unnecessary. Legislators should pass Governor Lamont's 100% clean energy by 2040 pledge into law.



FAST FACTS

- Because of ambitious clean energy and emissions goals set by Connecticut and our neighboring states, the use of natural gas in New England must fall by **27%** by 2023.
- Under the Pipeline Tax, Connecticut homeowners, ratepayers, and small businesses would be forced to pick up the tab for big energy companies at a total cost of over **\$6.6 billion**.
- Leaks associated with natural gas production and distribution release large amounts of methane, a pollutant that is 87-times more potent than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the Earth's atmosphere over a 20-year span.

MORE INFORMATION

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