

DOE Testimony
2/2/22

Good morning –

I know you have been inundated with numbers and statics for a couple years now so, these are the only numbers I will share with you today

100 - fuel companies in VT

4000 – The number of employees that work for these companies – many are middle age or higher – not ready to retire, nor looking to start over. They have worked for one place for a long time and have earned a right to a higher pay and benefits. You will be asking them to leave the jobs they know and start over. Possibly having to learn a new trade and start at the bottom of the pay scale.

And

\$30 million – that’s your number – that’s the amount of money you spent this year confirming we are a necessary energy – it’s the money you spent on low income homes helping to keep them warm this winter.

Thinking every Vermonter can afford to convert their 40 year old mobile home to electric when they can’t even afford to pay for a weatherization skirts around the bottom to keep the wind out is not realistic.

We are an important and intricate part of Vermont’s energy landscape – not just because we provide a clean energy – not just because our fuel reliable, not even because we can say we are recognized as a clean alternative fuel by the EPA under the Clean Air Act.

But, because I know my customers!!

I take care of my community – we are there to help Mrs. Smith who I know just lost her husband and doesn’t know how to turn her fireplace remote on. Or Mr. Jones who just had hip surgery and could not possibly shovel a path to his propane tank. I know my customers, my community and they know me.

When Covid hit and the medical field needed help setting up emergency heat for tents for testing, independent Propane companies all over New England stepped up. We were the only ones that could meet that need and we answered the call for our neighbors. Proctor Gas included. Electricity and oil were not an option.

I take a lot of pride in the personal care we give our customers. I know the ones who have fallen on hard times and could use some help from our VFDA split the ticket program.

Low income Vermonters living in rural areas would suffer if companies like mine were prevented from delivering an affordable and clean source of energy.

I'm from a small company in a small town in a small state where neighbors and community still matter. It has never been a secret that the green movement would like rural life to go away and we would all live in metropolitan areas.

No thank you!!!

As a native Vermonter. No one cares about the condition of our state more than I do and I believe the path you are taking us on is a bad one.

Yesterday, the New England grid fuel mix was using 58% Natural Gas. Propane is a byproduct of NG and so we can capture it and use it or simply waste it. You can't have one without the other.

With that said – you should know our industry continues to work diligently towards renewable propane to help make us even more competitive in the Green market. Propane microgrids are a viable solution and can partner with solar micro-grid installations to provide dependable clean energy.

If electricity dependence is going to increase throughout Vermont it is imperative that the legislature partner with an energy source that will further the state's energy security and resiliency needs. Propane is the perfect partner for times when renewable solar and wind are not available.

I do get frustrated when Electric is sold as clean green energy and we are the bad guys. - We are clean and have a great story to tell as part of the environmental message.

Propane is nontoxic and has no ozone depleting chemicals unlike electricity transformers which contain SF6 the most potent of all greenhouse gases.

SF6 is nontoxic and will not harm humans; however it is almost 24,000 times more effective than carbon dioxide (CO2) at trapping heat making SF6 a VERY POTENT GREENHOUSE GAS.

I respect and appreciate the job you have set before you,
Thank you for your time.