

— CHRISTOPHER LOURAS, RUTLAND CITY MAYOR

— WHAT I HOPE TO PROVIDE THE BOARD IS A PERSPECTIVE THAT IS BROAD RATHER THAN LOCAL IN NATURE, AND TO SPEAK TO THE PUBLIC GOOD AND PUBLIC INTEREST OF THIS PROJECT WITHIN A MORE GLOBAL CONTEXT.

— CLEARLY I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS HEARING ~~IS~~ CONCERNS ~~THE~~ THE ADDITION EXPANSION, BUT A FOCUS ON REGIONAL AND STATE-WIDE BENEFITS OF NATURAL GAS BEYOND FRANKLIN + CHITTENDEN COUNTIES IS WHERE WE TRULY

DISCUSS + DEFINE THE PUBLIC GOOD IN VERMONT

— ~~THE~~ PROJECT APPROVAL ~~IS~~ ~~REQUISITE~~ ~~TO~~ ~~VERMONT~~ ~~GAS'~~ ~~LONG~~ ~~TERM~~ ~~COMMITMENT~~ ~~TO~~ ~~SERVE~~ ~~SOUTHERN~~ ~~VERMONT~~

IS REQUISITE TO VERMONT GAS' LONG TERM

COMMITMENT TO SERVE SOUTHERN VERMONT

AND IS ~~NECESSARY~~ ESSENTIAL IF ~~THE~~ VERMONT
~~AS A STATE~~ HOPES TO REALIZE THE
ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIETAL
BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH A CLEAN,
INEXPENSIVE FUEL SOURCE CURRENTLY
AVAILABLE TO ONLY A SMALL CORNER OF THE STATE.

— THE CLEAN ENERGY ~~OPPORTUNITIES~~ OPPORTUNITIES

RESULTING FROM ^{V. SERVICES TO} ADDISON, TICONDEROGA, + RUTLAND

MARKETS ~~WILL~~ ^{WILL} INCLUDE A 1.8 MILLION TON ~~MARKET~~

~~REDUCTION~~ ~~IN~~ GREENHOUSE GAS ~~EMISSIONS~~

~~AND~~ REDUCTION AND SAVINGS OF \$720 MILLION

FOR ~~A PERIOD~~ 16,500 CUSTOMERS. OVER 20 YRS.

AS MAYOR

— I FULLY APPRECIATE THE BOARD'S ROLE IN

DETERMINING THE PUBLIC GOOD, BY EXAMPLE,

THE RECENT EMP/CVPS MERGER RESULTED IN AN ORDER
THAT SOME ~~CHALLENGES~~ CHALLENGES WAS NOT IN

MY CITY'S BEST INTEREST. HOWEVER I CONTEND

THAT THE OVERARCHING BENEFIT TO VERMONT

AS A WHOLE SERVES VERMONT'S BEST INTEREST THAN THE
MERGER.

- I VIEW THE ADDISON EXPANSION SIMILARLY.

- THE ADDISON + RUTLAND REGIONS SIMPLY WISH

TO BE TREATED FAIRLY + EQUITABLY AND BE

AFFORDED

~~THE~~ THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE

OUR

BUT ~~THE~~ ENVIRONMENT + OUR ECONOMIES

GIVEN

THAT IS ~~THE~~ OUR NEIGHBORS IN FRANKLIN

AND CHITTENDEN COUNTIES.

- LAST PARA.

it is simply in the public interest and public good to expand ~~the~~ natural gas service via ~~pipeline~~ pipeline expansion to ~~through~~ the residents of central and southern Vermont.

Rutland has embraced the Board's ~~order~~ ^{GMP} order ~~reg. the GMP merger~~, and ^{has been} working ~~in partnership~~ to take advantage of clean energy opportunities through ~~the~~ ^{the} Energy Innovation Center and our own solar capital initiative. ~~and~~ Support of the Addison Expansion is the logical evolution of Rutland's and the State's dedication to cleaner/cheaper fuel sources resulting in a more sustainable future in economic ~~opportunities~~ opportunities, energy use, and stewardship of our environment.