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Joe Courtney  
Congress of the United States

2nd District, Connecticut

September 2, 2014

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Chairman Daniel Elliot  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington DC 20423

Re: Docket no. FD 35752

Dear Chairman Elliot,

I write in regards to the Grafton & Upton Railroad Company (G&U) Petition for Declaratory Order that is currently pending consideration by the Surface Transportation Board. As the U.S. Representative for Connecticut's Second Congressional District, I have spoken with propane dealers in my congressional district that could draw on potential shipments in North Grafton should construction of the terminal go forward.

As you know, production of a range of gas products is booming across the country. Residential and industrial consumers are greatly benefiting from inexpensive gas to heat their homes, businesses, and to expand manufacturing. In New England, but especially in Connecticut, we have been unable to derive the full economic benefit of the shale boom due to infrastructure shortfalls. While everyone in Connecticut is working to help expand infrastructure capacity, we still have a significant distance to go. Beyond the economics, Connecticut must also deal with supply restrictions.

This past winter, we endured prolonged periods of extreme cold and uncommonly high snowfall. Propane stocks nationwide were stretched to the brink, with acute shortages in a number of regions, including the Northeast. While I recognize the specific conditions that lead to these shortfalls were uncommon, propane dealers must ready themselves for winter deliveries and do not have the luxury of hoping that such conditions do not arise again.

In an effort to help propane dealers adequately plan, I would ask that the Surface Transportation Board make public a timeline for its decision on the Grafton & Upton Railroad Company (G&U) Petition for Declaratory Order. I understand that a decision is close at hand, but a timeline would provide a level of relief as they plan for winter deliveries.

I thank you for your consideration in this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress