

Utah Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 45585
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0585
Docket 06-057-T04

UTAH PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

November 8, 2006

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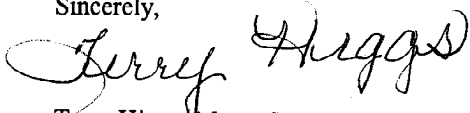
We strongly support the proposal to remove GSS and EAC rates from Questar Gas Company's tariff. Natural gas service has clearly benefited rural Utah. We appreciate the accommodations made several years ago to bring gas to Kanosh Town. However, the various arrangements made to cover the cost of bringing that service to rural Utah have resulted in some areas receiving economic-development advantages over others.

GSS and EAC rates were tools that allowed rapid expansion of a critical service. But these arrangements favored faster growing communities. Those communities have been able to join Utah's economic mainstream faster. Higher rates in Kanosh Town only keep us from catching up, or even competing. For the benefit of the whole state, it's time to level the playing field. Removing the extra charges from our rates will help accomplish this.



Economic development in rural Utah will benefit all of Utah. It will take pressure off the Wasatch Front and Washington County. It will provide more options to businesses and industries considering relocating to Utah. It will provide jobs and income beyond agriculture and the service sector. More competitive natural gas rates will provide the jumpstart we need.

The minimal cost of this jumpstart was the rationale used by the legislature to help some communities receive gas service in the first place. Because of 1998's HB180, all Questar Gas customers pay a few cents extra every month to cover the costs of taking gas service to Panguitch, Cedar Fort and Brian Head. This is a good example of the type of cooperation and compromise we are requesting. We urge the PSC to approve the proposal.

Sincerely,



Terry Higgs, Mayor Kanosh Town

by: 
Copy 
Kanosh Town Clerk

Committee of Consumer Services
Attn: Reed Warnick
SB Box 146782
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6782

Division of Public Utilities
Attn: Connie White

SM Box 146751
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6751

Questar Gas
Attn: Barrie McKay
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Salt Lake City, UT 84145

S.C.R. 4 Enrolled Sponsor: Leonard M. Blackham

RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING ECONOMIC
RESETTLEMENT OF RURAL UTAH

1997 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO FUEL THE ECONOMIC RESETTLEMENT OF RURAL UTAH; RECOMMENDING DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES, INCENTIVES, AND LEGISLATION WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL UTAH; AND RECOMMENDING SUPPORT FOR RURAL ECONOMIC RESETTLEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES~

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS the Governor has called for the economic resettlement of rural Utah, and has recently reaffirmed the commitment of his administration to this policy;

WHEREAS the economic resettlement of rural Utah is important to the whole state, and over time it could become our modern day planning equivalent of wide streets in a logical, well-organized grid, as it serves to take pressure off the more populated regions of the state;

WHEREAS the Governor has challenged this generation of Utahns to become a generation of planners;

WHEREAS effective state planning efforts must be inclusive of rural needs and strategies, as well as the needs and strategies of the state's urban centers;

WHEREAS community and economic development planning have been identified as a high priority by rural Utahns at the 1996 Utah Rural Summit, and is vital to the economic success of rural Utah;

WHEREAS rural economies are fragile and generally lacking in diversity;

WHEREAS rural unemployment levels are higher than the state average;

WHEREAS income levels in rural Utah are below the state average;

WHEREAS rural communities are experiencing shortages of affordable housing;

WHEREAS the number of traditional resource-based jobs in rural Utah is declining rapidly and are being replaced by lower paying service sector jobs, many of which are seasonal in nature;

WHEREAS increasing regulation and restrictive land management designations involving public lands are combining to limit economic development options in rural Utah;

WHEREAS professional and technical resources needed for community and economic development in rural Utah are limited;

WHEREAS many rural communities have an available workforce, in contrast to worker shortages in many urban areas of the state; and

WHEREAS the Governor and the Legislature are committed to planning for and building a healthy rural economy, and recognize its importance to the well-being of the state as a whole:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, support efforts to fuel the economic resettlement of rural Utah and support the development of policies and appropriate legislation pertinent to achieving these goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor give high priority to, and encourage all administrative departments of the state to give high priority to, thoughtfully directing time and resources toward policies and activities that will strengthen rural communities and economies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor recognize the value of the following goals and objectives, and encourage all departments and administrative offices of the state of Utah to consider their implementation in appropriations, administration, and other governmental processes:

- (1) Institute policies that provide incentives and basic infrastructure necessary to attract businesses and economic investment to rural Utah communities
- (2) Support efforts which encourage Utah businesses to consider rural locations in their site selection processes as they expand their business operations
- (3) Support business efforts which encourage appropriate out-of-state businesses to consider rural locations in their site selection processes;
- (4) Promote policies and incentives which encourage and facilitate the deployment of "Information Superhighway" telecommunications technology to rural Utah communities, and assist rural communities in developing the capability to take advantage of opportunities provided by these technologies;
- (5) Support policies which encourage the dispersion of state jobs or officers to rural areas of the state, and which facilitate telecommuting opportunities for both public and private sector employees;
- (6) Continue and enhance training and technical support for rural small businesses;
- (7) Increase educational and job training opportunities in rural areas of the state, enhancing the ability of rural citizens to compete in a global marketplace, with emphasis on lifespan learning, tying education to labor force needs, and retaining workers displaced from traditional resource-based jobs;
- (8) Find new and innovative ways to resolve public land and resource issues in order to sustain both ecosystems and economies; and
- (9) Encourage efforts toward collaboration and coordination of various economic development entities and agencies throughout the state and across all levels of government, including federal, state, and local entities, both public and private.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the governor encourage development of affordable housing to accommodate population growth and meet the housing needs of employees of new and expanding businesses in rural Utah.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to each state government department and division director, the chairperson of the Division of Business and Economic Development Board, the Utah Rural Development Council, the Utah Center for Rural Life, and to Utah Small Cities, Inc.