

30 January, 2009

Utah Public Service Commission  
160 East 300 South  
SLC, UT 84114

Re: Compressed Natural Gas

Attention: Mr. Ted Boyer

Mr. Boyer:

UTAH PUBLIC  
SERVICE COMMISSION

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I wish to express my disappointment in the PSC and in particular, you.

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I intend to keep the tone of this letter professional. I'm one of those folks who believes in being constructive and respectful.

Mr. Boyer, the mandate from the PSC to Questar Gas regarding raising their rates for CNG was unilateral and filled with unintended consequences. I have attached a letter sent to Governor Huntsman regarding this and will warn you that I and others intend to ask for your removal from the PSC if this mandate is not rescinded.

I'm just a simple man. I don't pretend to know all the intricate goings on in our bloated government. I can, however read a profit and loss statement. Questar Gas is making record profits on its operations. Where's the logic in increasing its rates? I'm also smart enough to know that if you nearly double the cost of CNG, you are doubling the cost of fuel for state, municipal and public transportation fleets.

As I wrote to Governor Huntsman, I don't buy the excuse that the CNG infrastructure is in the red. It was never created to be profitable. It was created by and for Questar Gas and the government, not people like me. However I chose to spend ***thousands of dollars more*** for my CNG vehicles, and use the refueling sites in a responsible, respectful manner.

We live in a time when people are tired of overreaching government and its entities. Now is not the time to raise prices on ANYONE..

Please give careful thought to this.

Sincerely,

  
Bob Pettipaw

30 January, 2009

Governor John Huntsman, Jr.  
PO Box 14220  
SLC, UT 84114-2220

Re: Compressed Natural Gas

Mr. Huntsman:

I am writing this as a loyal constituent advising you of what many people feel is an attempt by the state government, or its agency stepping way out of line.

You may be aware of a recent mandate handed down by the Public Service Commission (PSC) to Questar Gas requiring them to nearly DOUBLE the price of compressed natural gas (CNG) in July of 09. I'd like to spend a paragraph or two explaining why I, and many others think this is out of line.

Questar Gas did not request this, nor do they think it is a good idea. Questar Gas in 2009 has posted a record profit/dividend on its operations and has requested rate DECREASES to the PSC.

Nearly doubling the cost of CNG will have many unintended consequences. First and foremost, the cost to operate government fleet vehicles will nearly double. Were you aware that Utah state and municipal fleets own approximately 1000 CNG vehicles? Depending on their use, the fuel costs TO THE STATE will increase by millions of dollars. Not a sound fiscal decision if you ask me.

Let's be honest, the infrastructure of the CNG stations around Utah was established years ago primarily for Questar Gas, government fleets, school systems and public transportation, not the general public. The excuses that come from the PSC regarding the cost to operate or intended use of the network don't hold water. If the private sector wants a refueling network, they will build it themselves.

Myself, I own two CNG vehicles. I spent years researching and thousands of dollars more investing in them. The current operating costs and infrastructure made it a wise investment. With the mandated changes, all my efforts and the efforts of thousands of Utahns will be for nothing.

Your PSC has unilaterally raised the price on fuel for not only thousands of Utahns, but has put additional burden on businesses and more importantly, the already bloated and budgetary challenged state and local governments.

Government agencies determining what something should cost is a dangerous thing, Mr. Huntsman. I strongly suggest you intervene and allow Questar Gas to charge what they feel is fair.

This letter is just the beginning. I and many like me intend to make a lot of noise about this. Not just because it is in our personal interest, but this is indicative of an underlying problem with government, and people are getting tired of it.

Having said all this, I would hope this issue produces a constructive dialogue between us.

Sincerely,



Bob Pettipaw

CC: PSC Members