

To: Utah Public Service Commission
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UTAH PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

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From: Ryan Smith

January 9, 2009

RE: "DOCKET NO. 07-057-13 In the Matter of the Application of Questar Gas Company to Increase Distribution Non-Gas Rates and Charges to Make Tariff Modifications. As Filed by the Commission on Monday, December 22, 2008

Dear Commissioners:

I've never written in about something like this before but this recent decision doesn't make much sense to me. I use Questar natural gas both at home and work and have for many years. The natural gas I use in my home, business and vehicle comes from and my taxes have helped build the Wexpro resource that is now suddenly going to be ignored when calculating the price of natural gas at the pump. How exactly does that make any sense? If I'm going to buy milk in Hawaii I don't expect to pay the same price that someone in the dairy capital of America is going to pay because milk is a tad scarcer in Hawaii. Why would I expect to pay the same price for natural gas that someone pays who lives in a place where it is scarce? Natural gas is an abundant local resource and that should definitely influence the local price.

I understand that the price has been subsidized and that Questar isn't allowed to really make even enough money to invest back into the fueling stations which helps explain why there is often terrible pressure and why I have to run back to fueling stations so often. I am also a reasonable person and wouldn't mind paying more for natural gas in the interest of allowing Questar to make a **reasonable** profit and keep the fueling stations operating at a reasonable capacity.

We're very lucky to live in a state with such an important natural resource available so abundantly. This resource can be used to help clean up our terrible air, lessen our dependence on foreign oil and save our local citizens quite a bit of money. It's too bad that rulings like this will only influence more people to give up on natural gas instead of continuing to utilize it more. If it were just as easy to operate a natural gas powered car as an unleaded powered car it would be one thing but many of us have invested a lot of money to be able to use natural gas and we have to drive around and plan our lives around where a (hopefully) working natural gas station is located so that we don't run out of fuel. The lesser cost of this

fuel certainly helps offset some of those other difficulties. If this ruling is approved it will change that equation dramatically.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a distinct "S".

Ryan Smith