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CLUB

Massachusetts
Chapter

**Testimony, Massachusetts Sierra Club, Thursday, March 10, 2016, 2 PM.
MA Department of Public Utilities, South Station, Boston.
Public Hearing on Dockets 16-05, 16-07.**

Good afternoon. My name is Cathy Buckley and I chair the Massachusetts Sierra Club. Thank you on behalf of our 50,000 members and supporters for this opportunity to speak today.

NASA scientist James Hansen was the first to address Congress on climate change, in 1988. One of his main concerns is the increasing ferocity of storms - as evidenced in his book, *Storms of My Grandchildren*. We started recording wind speeds in 1932. Only two years later, in 1934, 231 mph winds on Mount Washington set a record that stood through the rest of the 1930s, the 40s, the 50s, the 60s, the 70s, the 80s, until 1996, when, during Tropical Cyclone Olivia in Australia, wind was measured at 253 mph. And that record may just have been broken last month by Tropical Cyclone Winston in Fiji. The future furies are coming on fast.

Upcoming national energy legislation will likely require utilities to provide storage for renewable energy. *This is the direction we must take, and where we must invest our energy dollars.*

MA has some of the best off-shore wind in the world, south of Martha's Vineyard. Two areas are now leased there and those companies need contracts from utilities to buy their power. *This is the direction we must take, and where we must invest our energy dollars.*

Fracking companies are desperate to get gas out of the ground and out to foreign ports, where prices are much higher than here. They want to pipe the fracked gas from Ohio and Pennsylvania across New England. Why should we pay for a pipeline that an independent study says we do not need? *That is against our economic, climate and safety interests.*

We want local jobs that bring us security now and in the future. As one worker, mulling a fossil-fuel related job put it, "it's a good opportunity, but I also think about what it means for my 11-year-old daughter. And I guess I care more about her future."

National Grid lobbies to cap solar and pull the plug on wind. But their solution for multi-billion dollar pipelines? *Get us to pay for them!*

I will end by paraphrasing a previous speaker from Dracut. *How dare you ask us to pay for fracked gas pipelines that would inflict such cruel calamity on our very own children?*