



# CITY OF CONCORD

*New Hampshire's Main Street™*  
City Manager's Office

Thomas J. Aspell, Jr.  
City Manager

December 21, 2020

Debra A. Howland, Executive Director  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street, Unit 10  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Executive Director Howland:

The City of Concord, in conjunction with the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance and Liberty Utilities, is actively exploring the potential preservation of the Gas Holder Building located at 1 Gas Street, Concord. This unique historic property, which was constructed in 1888, is currently owned by Liberty Utilities.

Multiple independent structural assessments of the property, as recently completed by the Preservation Alliance and Liberty Utilities, have determined that the building is in imminent danger of collapse due to deferred maintenance. In addition to the potential loss of a historic resource, this information is troubling as the building serves to partially cap extensive soil and groundwater environmental contamination at the property.

Therefore, the City of Concord is in support of working with the aforementioned parties, and other potential entities, to identify and implement an appropriate, financially viable preservation and redevelopment plan for the Gas Holder Building, which shall preserve this unique historic structure while simultaneously protecting the general public from extensive environmental contamination at the site.

We ask that the Public Utilities Commission consider allowing Liberty Utilities, if it so requests, to use rate payer funded resources, which otherwise would be allocated to demolition and mitigation, to repair and stabilize the Gas Holder until such time as a viable preservation and redevelopment plan can be identified and implemented to permanently preserve the building, thereby safeguarding this important historic resource and the protective capping function it provides concerning soil and groundwater contamination at the property.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Most respectfully,

Thomas J. Aspell Jr.  
City Manager