

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

August 1, 2017

The Honorable Governor Charles D. Baker
Massachusetts State House, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker,

As the State Senators, Representatives, and Mayors for Weymouth, Quincy, Braintree and other South Shore communities, we want to extend our sincerest gratitude for directing your agencies to conduct a public health impact review of the Fore River Basin and the proposed compressor station in North Weymouth. We also appreciate the attention that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) have given to the permitting process and the expressed concerns of affected citizens.

The results of the impending air quality and health impact reviews will set the course for the remainder of the project. For this reason, we respectfully urge that you do everything in your capacity to ensure that no outside influences have a hand in the decision making process. Our agencies must conduct these reviews with the singular goal of ensuring the public's health and safety. The affected communities deserve a strong and definitive commitment to rejecting this project, if these fact-based studies confirm that the project poses any health or safety risks.

Our reason for concern arises from the results of an open records request, which revealed that in February 2016, DEP released a draft permit to the applicant, Spectra (now Enbridge), to review and edit without any disclosure to the public. These actions indicate a willing partnership to advance the project, despite the known dangers and inadequacy of the proposed site of the compressor station. We hope that any undisclosed collaboration to facilitate the interests of the applicant will end.

Another cause for concern is the role of Natural Resource Group (NRG) in an environmental assessment of the Atlantic Bridge pipeline in 2015. According to financial reports submitted by Spectra to the Federal Energy Regulation Commission, NRG has been employed by Spectra and is financially invested in the expansion of the pipeline. This represents a conflict of interest and damages the credibility of the partnership of these two companies to produce honest and impartial environmental assessments. These past infractions call for extreme caution when proceeding with the public health impact review of the Fore River Basin.

Our responsibility as local and statewide elected leaders is not to offer adjustments, exemptions, modifications, or mitigation factors that would allow this project to move forward despite the risks, but to appropriately exercise our legally protected state authority and reject an unsafe project outright. The characteristics of this project are unprecedented and dangerous to our communities. It is our obligation to work together to protect the interests of our constituency, and we thank you for your help to overcome the particularly difficult challenge that lies before us.

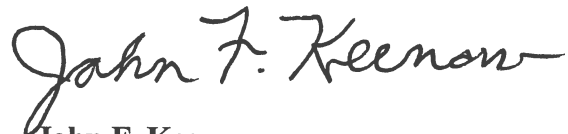
We understand that a rejection of this project by the Commonwealth, if that action is justified by the results of the health and safety assessments, would likely be appealed in Federal court by the applicant. Nonetheless we are firm in our position. The possibility of an appeal must not become the sole grounds for accommodating a project that is inappropriate, unsafe, and of little benefit to Massachusetts.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and reply to this letter, and for the great amount of work that your agency leaders have done in reviewing this project and keeping us informed. We appreciate the work, and look forward to addressing any questions you may have about this letter.

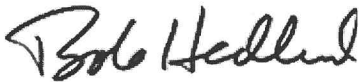
Respectfully,



Patrick M. O'Connor
State Senator
Plymouth & Norfolk



John F. Keenan
State Senator
Norfolk & Plymouth



Robert L. Hedlund
Mayor
Town of Weymouth



James M. Murphy
State Representative
4th Norfolk



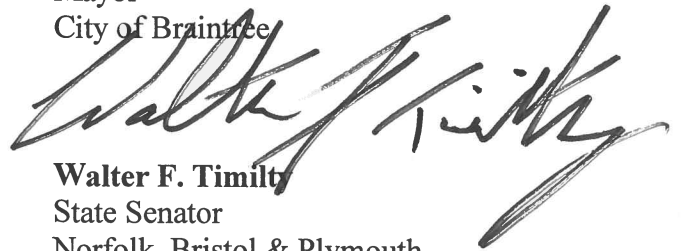
Thomas P. Koch
Mayor
City of Quincy



Joseph C. Sullivan
Mayor
City of Braintree



Ronald Mariano
House Majority Leader
3rd Norfolk



Walter F. Timilty
State Senator
Norfolk, Bristol & Plymouth



Mark J. Cusack
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Bruce J. Ayers
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