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September 22, 2015

Mr. Norman C. Bay
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Project Docket Number CP14-96-000

Dear Chairman Bay:

I am writing to echo the request of my colleagues in the New York State Legislature, including Senate Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) immediately halt plans to move forward with Spectra Energy's Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) pipeline expansion until a rigorous, independent safety study, including a transient risk analysis, is completed.

As Ranking Member of the New York State Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, I am extremely concerned about the environmental hazards posed by the AIM pipeline. The pipeline comes dangerously close to the Indian Point Energy Center nuclear power plant in Buchanan, New York, which recently experienced a transformer explosion that spilled thousands of gallons of oil into the Hudson River. Exacerbating infrastructure development near this site increases the risk of a nuclear disaster that would impact the 20 million people who live within 50 miles of the site, including my constituents in Manhattan.

Further, the AIM pipeline sits atop a fault line. While a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) study found that building a pipeline here posed no additional earthquake-related risk, an independent study by local town officials and gas industry experts found errors in the NRC analysis.

New York State has a Climate Action Plan to achieve an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050. Our regulatory agencies should be partners in helping us achieve this goal through promoting renewable energy sources, not promoting the proliferation of unstable and unsustainable energy sources that contribute to global climate change.

I understand that construction on the pipeline can begin as soon as October 1st. I strongly urge FERC to act swiftly and issue a safety study for the AIM pipeline to protect New Yorkers from this risky development. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 212-633-8052.

Sincerely,



Brad Hoylman
New York State Senator
27th District