

NEW YORK
STATE SENATE



NEW YORK
STATE ASSEMBLY

STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

March 23, 2015

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We want to first thank you for protecting the health and safety of all New York residents by banning high volume hydraulic fracturing throughout New York State. We ask you to continue this leadership by vetoing a project that could result in more fracking in the region. Liberty Natural Gas, LLC (Liberty), has submitted an application to build a proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) deepwater port facility, called Port Ambrose, roughly 19 miles from the New York shore. As representatives of the State of New York, we urge you to veto this unnecessary and environmentally irresponsible project.

The construction and operation of Port Ambrose would have a strongly negative ecological impact on its surroundings, discharge millions of gallons of chemically treated seawater and require the dredging of miles of sea floor. Port Ambrose would further aggravate environmental degradation by increasing New York's reliance on natural gas, a methane-emitting fuel. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the leading international body for the assessment of climate change, methane, a dangerous greenhouse gas, is 86 times more effective than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in our atmosphere over a 20-year period. This is, of course, in addition to the potential havoc wrought to New York's coastline if an extreme weather event, such as another Hurricane Sandy, were to damage a vulnerable offshore facility of this type. Moreover, Port Ambrose could pose a grave security risk for New York. According to the Council on Foreign Relations, liquefied natural gas facilities are a potential terrorist target. Any explosion or fire from an LNG facility in the New York harbor would be catastrophic.

This project also has the potential to interfere with the development of a far more environmentally responsible wind farm that has been proposed for this area. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, an agency of the U.S. Department of Interior, in

its scoping comments on the Port Ambrose application, stated that it is “concerned that the proposal to construct a LNG port in the same area proposed for a large wind facility could result in serious conflicts – or at the minimum, complicating factors – that may impact the overall viability of one or both projects.” We and many of our constituents fear that this would not be a worthy tradeoff.

Furthermore, Port Ambrose is an unnecessary project. According to the 2014 Draft New York State Energy Plan, domestic production of natural gas is at its highest level in four decades and the “need for substantial increased volumes of imported LNG has diminished for the near term.” The Draft Energy Plan further states that this saturation of supply in natural gas has caused imports to decline every year from 2007 through 2012, a year in which just two of the twelve active LNG import terminals in the country received regular shipments.

As you may be aware, in 2011 New Jersey Governor Chris Christie vetoed an application for an LNG port by Liberty off the coast of New Jersey, stating that “offshore LNG poses unacceptable risks to the state’s residents, natural resources, economy and security.” We urge you to veto this project and continue to defend New York State’s precious environmental assets.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District



Linda B. Rosenthal
Member of Assembly
67th District



Todd Kaminsky
Member of Assembly
20th District

Joseph Addabbo
State Senator
15th District

Thomas Abinanti
Member of Assembly
92nd District

Carmen Arroyo
Member of Assembly
84th District

David Carlucci
State Senator
38th District

Michael Benedetto
Member of Assembly
82nd District

Rodneyse Bichotte
Member of Assembly
42nd District

Adriano Espaillat
State Senator
31st District

Barbara Clark
Member of Assembly
33rd District

William Colton
Member of Assembly
47th District

Jesse Hamilton
State Senator
20th District

Vivian Cook
Member of Assembly
32nd District

Maritza Davila
Member of Assembly
53rd District

Ruth Hassell-Thompson
State Senator
36th District

Jeffrey Dinowitz
Member of Assembly
81st District

Steve Englebright
Member of Assembly
4th District

Liz Krueger
State Senator
28th District

Deborah Glick
Member of Assembly
66th District

Richard Gottfried
Member of Assembly
75th District

Marc Panepinto
State Senator
60th District

Andrew Hevesi
Member of Assembly
28th District

Earlene Hooper
Member of Assembly
18th District

Bill Perkins
State Senator
30th District

Ellen Jaffee
Member of Assembly
9th District

Kimberly Jean-Pierre
Member of Assembly
11th District

Gustavo Rivera
State Senator
33rd District

Brian Kavanagh
Member of Assembly
74th District

Charles Lavine
Member of Assembly
13th District

James Sanders
State Senator
10th District

Joseph Lentol
Member of Assembly
50th District

Barbara Lifton
Member of Assembly
125th District

Michael Miller
Member of Assembly
38th District

Walter Mosley
Member of Assembly
57th District

Steven Otis
Member of Assembly
91st District

Jose Rivera
Member of Assembly
78th District

Sam Roberts
Member of Assembly
128th District

Annette Robinson
Member of Assembly
56th District

Robert Rodriguez
Member of Assembly
68th District

Nily Rozic
Member of Assembly
25th District

William Scarborough
Member of Assembly
29th District

Michelle Schimel
Member of Assembly
16th District

Jo Anne Simon
Member of Assembly
52nd District

Aravella Simotas
Member of Assembly
36th District

Frank Skartados
Member of Assembly
104th District

Michaëlle Solages
Member of Assembly
22nd District

Phil Steck
Member of Assembly
110th District

Fred Thiele, Jr.
Member of Assembly
1st District

Matthew Titone
Member of Assembly
61st District

Michele Titus
Member of Assembly
31st District

David Weprin
Member of Assembly
24th District