

October 18, 2019

Governor Phil Murphy  
Office of the Governor  
20 West State Street, 4th Floor  
P.O. Box 022  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Copies to: Commissioner Catherine McCabe, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Dear Governor Murphy:

We the undersigned collectively represent roughly 270,000 New Jersey residents. As organizations united against the Northeast Supply Enhancement (“NESE”) Project, we write to urge you and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”) to deny, with prejudice, the pending permits for the project, once and for all, and end this unrelenting attack on our climate, public health, and shared environment.

As you know, NESE is a proposed fossil fuel expansion project backed by Oklahoma based fossil-fuel giant Williams-Transco. The project calls for the creation of a massive new compressor station in Franklin Township, 3.4 miles of pipeline in Middlesex County, and 23.4 miles of offshore pipeline running through the Raritan Bay and Lower New York Bay.

First and foremost, this project offers no benefit, and only harm, to the State of New Jersey and its residents. The sole purpose of the project is to provide New York, not New Jersey with natural gas. Despite the projects’ alleged benefit to New York, there is robust opposition throughout New York, including opposition from prominent elected officials including Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York City Mayor de Blasio, and several members of Congress. As those in New Jersey only stand to be harmed by the numerous adverse consequences of this project, it is surprising that you have not come out in against this reckless and unnecessary proposal. With the facts and laws supporting a permanent denial, as well as the outspoken opposition by key elected officials and residents in New York, it is especially clear why New Jersey should never allow such a project to be approved.

Together, over the past three years we have worked tirelessly to bring the truth to light to stop this reckless and unnecessary project from inflicting the destruction that would naturally follow its approval. In that time, both law, fact, and public opinion have supported our stance. An audit of the public comments submitted to the DEP in regards to NESE found a ratio of 1000 to 1 against the project. The environmental and health impacts from water and air degradation associated with the proposed project are well documented. It is for these reasons that the DEP denied the project back in June, finding that the project violated key environmental laws and regulations. Despite the numerous issues outlined by the DEP in the denial, the applicant

reapplied days later. Despite the minor modifications to the application, it is clear the project still fails to comply with environmental, public interest, and health safeguards enacted to protect New Jersey's air, water, people, and climate. As such it must be denied.

Moreover, the project goes against your green energy agenda by promoting decades of continued reliance on fossil fuels at a time when we must rapidly transition to renewable energy and reduce our fossil fuel usage. NESE would lock our region into a dirty fossil fuel future and expand the fracking boom that is polluting our water. We cannot afford that. New Jersey is highly prone to the impacts of climate change, many of which are already being felt throughout the state.

Simply put, this project offers absolutely no benefit, only harm, to New Jersey and the residents of the Garden State. Therefore, we urge you and the New Jersey DEP to uphold the law and robustly deny the pending permits, with prejudice, for the NESE Project. If approved, this project will be a lose, lose, lose for our state, our future, and our planet.

Sincerely,

350NJ

JFK Franklin Democratic Club

American Littoral Society

League of Women Voters of New Jersey

Central Jersey Environmental Defenders

Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership

Clean Ocean Action

NJ State Federation of Women's Clubs

Clean Water Action

New Jersey League of Conservation Voters

ClimateMama

New York / New Jersey Baykeeper

Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline - NJ

People Over Pipelines

Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War

Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Coalition to Ban Unsafe Oil Trains

Possible Planet

David Pringle Associates LLC

Princeton Manor

Environment New Jersey

Raritan Riverkeeper

Food & Water Watch

Roseland Against the Compressor Station

Franklin Woman's Club

Sierra Club

Franciscan Response to Fossil Fuels

Surfrider Foundation Jersey Shore

GreenFaith Bergen Circle

The Watershed Institute

Indivisible Pequannock

Waterspirit