

September 24, 2024

Governor Ned Lamont
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106
cc: Katie Dykes, Commissioner, DEEP

Dear Governor Lamont,

We, the undersigned elected officials, urge you to limit the expansion of shale gas infrastructure in Connecticut. There are two proposed interstate gas pipeline expansion projects before the state, Berkshire Hathaway Energy/TC Energy's (BH/TCE) Enhancement by Compression and Enbridge's Project Maple. We urge you to protect Connecticut's climate, economy, and the health and safety of all residents by opposing these gas expansion proposals and directing your agencies to prevent them from being approved.

BH/TCE's Enhancement by Compression project proposes to transport more gas through a pipeline that runs through Sherman, New Milford, Brookfield, Newtown, Monroe, Shelton, and Milford to New York by expanding two compressor stations in Connecticut in Brookfield and Milford.

Enbridge's Project Maple is a massive proposed pipeline project to increase the amount of gas delivered from enlarged pipelines and compressor stations along the "Algonquin" Gas Transmission Line that runs through Danbury, Brookfield, Newtown, Southbury, Oxford, Naugatuck, Waterbury, Cheshire, Glastonbury, Berlin, Southington, Hebron, Andover, Coventry, Mansfield, Eastford, Pomfret, Putnam, and Thompson with major spurs to North Haven and New London.

Both of these projects will deepen our state's reliance on fracked gas and hinder our ability to meet the greenhouse gas reductions and clean energy goals mandated by the Global Warming Solutions Act. Furthermore, they lock us into unreliable, unaffordable, unhealthy, and unjust energy.

Reliability: [Recent evidence](#) shows that over reliance on gas for electricity contributes to winter reliability challenges. A 2022 ISO-NE study suggests that as much as 13 percent of New England's gas fired power could be at risk in a cold snap due to lack of supply. Conversely, [ISO-NE has recently found](#) that offshore wind is a "critical resource" and renewable energy is helping to alleviate reliability concerns. Adding efficiencies and renewable energy to the grid has kept electricity demand stable and low in New England. In 2022, New England's electricity demand [increased by 0.1 percent](#), which is nearly flat. Offshore wind in particular has high availability during extreme winter weather events and can be procured through long-term

contracts that keep energy prices stable, helping to mitigate the price volatility associated with current heavy reliance on gas.

Affordability: We pay the [fourth highest price for energy](#) and use the fourth highest amount of methane per capita of any other state in the nation. Over reliance on methane [contributes to price spikes](#) in both gas and electricity prices; in 2022, national gas prices rose by 62 percent,

but in New England gas prices rose by 400 percent, due in part to the region being at the end of the pipelines. Exporting domestically fracked gas overseas causes significant price increases for U.S. consumers. More methane will not stabilize prices. [The answer is more solar and wind power.](#)

Public health: Connecticut already has a serious air pollution problem and is out of attainment for numerous air pollutants. Many counties in Connecticut have received failing ratings from the American Lung Association for air quality. Air pollutants from compressor stations on these pipelines, power plants, and home appliances that combust this methane include sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, nitrogen oxide, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, methane, benzene, sulfuric acid, particulate matter and mercury.

Environmental justice: Air pollution is disproportionately felt by vulnerable communities along the routes of these pipelines and the end uses. Enbridge has a proposal before FERC, as a possible precursor to the larger Project Maple, a new regulation station at a pipeline lateral in Coventry. Enbridge's proposed construction is in the heart of an Environmental Justice community in Coventry and the one mile work boundary includes an economically distressed population living below the poverty line.

We appreciate that your administration understands the clear and present danger climate change poses to Connecticut. The entire process of drilling, transporting, and using fracked gas releases methane, an extremely potent greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere. The climate crisis has hit our state hard as we've experienced flooding, storms, smog and massive weather events that cost billions of dollars. Recent extreme weather events like these are a stark warning of the escalating dangers linked to our dependence on fossil fuels. These occurrences, fueled by climate change driven largely by greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels and buildout of fossil fuel infrastructure, threaten the health and safety of all residents of Connecticut.

We urge you to oppose the further expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure in Connecticut, and direct your agencies to deny state permits for BHE/TC's Enhancement by Compression proposal, and deny Enbridge state permits for constructing new fossil fuel infrastructure along the "Algonquin" Gas Transmission Line.

Sincerely,

State Senator Saud Anwar
State Senator Jorge Cabrera
State Senator Jan Hochadel
State Senator Julie Kushner
State Representative Raghieb Allie-Brennan
State Representative Pat Boyd
State Representative Aundre Bumgardner
State Representative Robin Comey
State Representative Keith Denning
State Representative Josh Elliott
State Representative Bobby Gibson
State Representative Jillian Gilchrest
State Representative Anne Hughes

State Representative Sarah Keitt
State Representative David Michel
State Representative Christine Palm
State Representative Robyn Porter
State Representative Geraldo Reyes
State Representative Gary Turco
Cromwell Mayor James N. Demetriades
Cromwell Deputy Mayor Allan Waters
Hamden Mayor Lauren Garrett
Hamden Legislative Councilor (District 3) Abdul Osmanu
Hamden Legislative Councilor Rhonda Caldwell
Hamden Legislative Councilor and Majority Leader Ted Stevens
Hamden Legislative Councilor Laurie Sweet
Hamden Legislative Councilor Tasha Hunt
Hamden Legislative Councilor Adrian Webber
Hamden Legislative Council President Dominique Baez
Hamden Legislative Councilor Sean Cardwell
Middlefield Selectman James R. Irish
Naugatuck Conservation Commissioner Christine Yannielli
Mansfield Planning and Zoning Alternate Adam Opin