

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247

October 2, 2019

Hon. Basil Seggos
Commissioner
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, 4th Floor
Albany, New York 12233

Dear Commissioner Seggos,

We write to urge you to approve the Northeast Supply Enhancement (“NESE”) project, on an emergency basis only, as a gas shortage threatens the Long Island region. National Grid’s moratorium has already impacted thousands of our constituents, and the lack of a reliable, future natural gas supply has the potential to upend the lives of many more, halt economic development, and adversely result in the use of dirtier forms of energy.

Our passage of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (“CLCPA”) demonstrates our commitment to a green future and a clear understanding that reliance on fossil fuels must cease as soon as practicable. Importantly, the CLCPA requires all electricity generation in our State to be carbon free by 2040. The law also sets hard caps on greenhouse gas emissions, effectively eliminating the long-term reliance on fossil fuels, including natural gas. However, in the very near term, and while New York rapidly scales up its renewable energy portfolio, our residents and businesses continue to need natural gas as a cleaner transition energy source. We have heard from too many who have had their lives disrupted, at no fault of their own, because of the gas moratorium. Further, the lack of necessary natural gas infrastructure will force New Yorkers to use dirtier oil or propane. These options are less safe, more environmentally harmful, and will lead to increased truck traffic and other undesirable consequences. A new pipeline will result in emissions reductions from heating fuel conversions, a reduction in indirect emissions from truck traffic, the avoidance of disproportionate impacts to vulnerable communities, and well-paying jobs to people trying to feed their families.

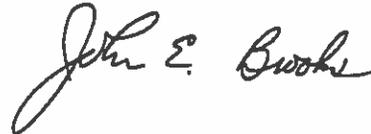
Therefore, to balance Long Island’s energy needs against our desire to minimize the burning of fossil fuels, we urge you to conditionally approve the NESE pipeline under the following strictures: first, NESE should be viewed as an emergency option only accessed when an independent body – not National Grid – determines that added natural gas supply is required to meet New York’s energy safety and reliability needs; second, the reliance on this additional supply should be scaled back proportionate to the increased availability of cleaner, renewable alternatives over time; and third, the State should consider requiring the utility to use proceeds from its use of the pipeline for renewable energy and energy efficiency investments, to more expeditiously meet the goals of the CLCPA.

It is our expectation and intention that this is the last gas pipeline that will merit your review as our State transitions to a renewable energy economy. However, our economy, under the present circumstances, necessitates a conditional approval of the NESE pipeline. Thank you for your consideration.

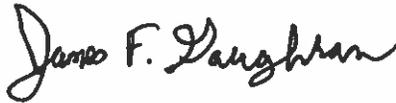
Sincerely,



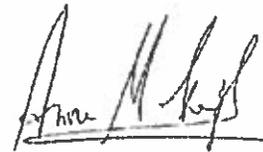
Todd Kaminsky
Senator, 9TH District



John Brooks
Senator, 8TH District



James Gaughran
Senator, 5TH District



Anna Kaplan
Senator, 7TH District



Monica Martinez
Senator, 3RD District



Kevin Thomas
Senator, 6TH District