

September 19th, 2024

The Honorable Maura Healey  
Governor of Massachusetts  
MA State Capitol Building  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Healey,

We, the undersigned public officials, urge you to prepare to hold Enbridge to strict compliance with our existing environmental regulations for any permits sought in order to expand their fossil fuel infrastructure along the Algonquin Gas Transmission Line that runs through Massachusetts. We were encouraged by the state's recent DPU decision in 20-80 that found the Commonwealth's future is one "beyond gas.". We urge your administration to think similarly when confronted with Enbridge's fracked gas expansion plans dubbed "Project Maple".

Enbridge's fracked gas expansion, which entails increasing the amount of gas delivered by potentially replacing smaller pipe with large, adding new looping pipelines and increasing compression along the route, would be an affront to communities already being impacted by the Algonquin pipeline and its recent AIM and Atlantic Bridge expansions including the West Roxbury Lateral and M&R Station and the Weymouth compressor station. Our Environmental Justice communities are already overburdened with the health and safety impacts of gas infrastructure.. These citizens, and all Massachusetts residents, require assurance there will be no more expansion.

Moreover, Enbridge's proposal would deepen our state's reliance on fracked gas for decades at a time when we must quickly reduce our fossil fuel emissions. Increased use of fossil gas will worsen emissions. Simply put, we cannot and will not be able to meet the legally mandated goals of the 2050 Roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 if you allow Enbridge's Project Maple to be approved. In order to meet those legally mandated goals, all new energy infrastructure permitted in Massachusetts must be clean, renewable, and equitably sited.

We appreciate that your administration understands the clear and present danger climate change poses to Massachusetts. The entire process of drilling, transporting, and using fracked gas increases methane, an extremely potent greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere. The climate crisis has hit Massachusetts hard as we've experienced flooding, storms, smog, beach erosion and massive weather events that hurt the entire Commonwealth. 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 Massachusetts residents.

Furthermore, the impacts of air pollutants (including but not limited to sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, nitrogen oxide, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, methane, benzene, sulfuric acid, particulate matter and mercury) from such a fossil fuel expansion are disproportionately felt by vulnerable communities along the route. Existing impacts include high rates of asthma as well as elevated rates of cancer and heart disease. Ultimately, the answer to lowering air pollution in the region and throughout the state is not to burn and transport more fracked gas.

While still in its early stages, Enbridge's Project Maple to expand their Algonquin Gas Transmission pipeline system poses a serious threat to our state's environment, economy and residents' health. We urge you to help Massachusetts' economy and the health and safety of all residents by opposing Project Maple and directing your agencies to prevent this from being approved in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

State Senator James Eldridge  
*Middlesex and Worcester District*

State Representative Sean Garballey  
*23rd Middlesex*

State Representative Carmine Gentile  
*13th Middlesex District*

State Representative Steve Owens  
*29th Middlesex*

Senator Paul Mark  
*Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire District*

State Representative Mike Connolly  
*26th Middlesex*

State Representative Erika Uytterhoeven  
*27th Middlesex District*

Sam Lambert  
*Everett School Committee, Vice Chair*

Stephanie Carlisle  
*Medway Sustainability Coordinator*

Mark Sandeen  
*Lexington Select Board Member*

Patricia Nolan  
*Cambridge City Council*

Bill Humphrey  
*Newton City Councilor*

Maria Greenberg  
*Newton Ward 1 City Councilor*

Alison Leary  
*Newton City Councilor*

Andreae Downs  
*Newton City Councilor*

Katy Rogers  
*Everett City Council At Large*

Carey McDonald  
*Malden City Councillor At Large*

Ari Taylor  
*Malden Ward 5 City Councillor*

Etel Haxhiaj  
*Worcester City Councilor*

Anna Callahan  
*Medford City Councilor*

Caroline Bays  
*Watertown City Councilor*

Zac Bears  
*Medford City Council, President*

Greg Snedeker  
*Town of Gill Selectboard Member*

Jesse Clingan  
*Somerville MA - Ward 4 City Councilor*

Patricia Nolan  
*Cambridge City Councillor*

Anthony (Tony) Palomba  
*Watertown City Councilor At-Large*

Kristen Strezo  
*City Councilor, at-Large, Somerville*

Caroline Bays  
*Watertown City Councilor*

Jeff Cohen  
*Salem Ward 5 City Councillor*

Eric Helmuth  
*Arlington Select Board Member*

Vincent Piccirilli  
*Watertown City Council, Vice President*

Kit Collins  
*Medford City Council Vice President*

Sharon Durkan  
*Boston, District 8, City Councilor*

Sumbul Siddiqui  
*City of Cambridge City Councillor*

Burhan Azeem  
*Cambridge City Council*

Matt Leming  
*Medford City Councilor, At-Large*

Cobi Frongillo  
*Franklin Town Councilor*

Willie Burnley Jr  
*Somerville City Councilor At-Large*

Wilfred Mbah  
*Somerville City Councilor*

Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler  
*Cambridge City Councillor*

Alice Merkl  
*Salem City Councillor*

Nicole Gardner  
*Watertown City Councilor*

Danielle Spang  
*Beverly Ward 2 City Councilor*

Henry Santana  
*Boston City Councilor At-Large*

Birgit Kohl  
*Medway Clean Energy and  
Sustainability Committee Member*