



Honorable Robert DeLeo, Speaker of the House
Massachusetts State House
Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

Honorable Stanley Rosenberg, Senate President
Massachusetts State House
Room 332
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Speaker DeLeo, Senate President Rosenberg, & Honorable Members of the
Massachusetts Legislature:

We write to you as municipal leaders from communities across the Commonwealth, who, through energy efficiency upgrades, clean energy projects, and the adoption of effective policies and programs, are leading the charge against the deleterious effects wrought by climate change. We commend the Legislature's rejection last session of the utility-proposed "pipeline tax" and urge you to stand united against efforts to undermine the August ruling by the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC), as well as local and state climate gains achieved to date.

Toward that end and on behalf of our shared constituents, our communities, and our state's future, we ask you to support legislation that will:

- Prohibit the harmful and unnecessary "pipeline tax."
- Prevent any other scheme to force consumers to accept unnecessary pipelines that we cannot afford and that would prevent us from complying with the law.
- Prioritize greater investment in energy efficiency/demand response, renewable resources, and energy storage.

These provisions will benefit the residents in our communities and are in line with the clean energy visions we share for our cities and towns.

The court's ruling that the pipeline tax violates the 1997 Restructuring Act was unambiguous. Yet, despite this decision, overwhelming public opposition, and rejection by this Legislature, investors in Spectra's Access Northeast project are undeterred from pursuing alternate avenues to financing their pipeline.

New pipelines pose multiple threats to our communities. Residents living along the proposed routes face destruction of local natural resources and a devaluation of their property. Families living near related infrastructure, like compressor stations, also face serious negative health impacts. Everyone will face the impacts of the substantial

increase in our state's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that conflict with the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). Our constituents will also be harmed financially. The adoption of a "pipeline tax" – whether by electric utilities or by gas utilities contracting for excessive pipeline capacity – will burden all ratepayers, regardless of where they live. They will be exposed to the price volatility of natural gas, and be responsible for paying for the pipelines even if they turn out to be unneeded, or are used to export natural gas abroad.

Massachusetts must take decisive action to meet the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). As noted in the reliability assessment commissioned by Attorney General Healey's office, increasing reliance on fossil fuel consumption takes us in the entirely wrong direction. Moreover, not only do we not need additional pipelines to power the grid, but there are more cost effective ways to meet our energy needs – namely energy efficiency and demand response.

Expanded gas infrastructure also contradicts the vision our residents have for their communities. Our cities and towns are leading by example, achieving substantial GHG emission reductions. This in turn contributes to Massachusetts' ability to meet its GWSA mandate and its commitments to clean energy growth. There are many opportunities to reduce consumption and costs even further. Thus, we remain steadfast in our opposition to any proposal that attempts to circumvent the SJC ruling, particularly when doing so will result in an oversized natural gas pipeline whose costs and risks will be borne by people in our communities. We look to you to also hold the line in the interest of our shared constituents.

Massachusetts must lead by example in pursuit of clean energy and climate action, propelled by the work of cities and towns like ours. Together we must safeguard against efforts to reimagine the pipeline tax, to enable oversubscription schemes, or to facilitate the buildout of unnecessary, oversized gas infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Name, Title and Town/City

Signature

CC Honorable House Members
Honorable Senators