

A note about the Mass Power Forward coalition, which put the sign on letter project together:

Mothers Out Front is an active participant in the Mass Power Forward coalition. Sustainable Arlington is part of the Mass Climate Action Network, which is also part of the Coalition.

The coalition consists of about 150 organizations: environmental groups, community development organizations, clean energy businesses, faith groups, neighborhood health and safety advocates and Massachusetts families fighting for our future. We believe our state and region can power forward with clean, affordable, reliable energy and a thriving economy. We have no other choice.

If you would like more info about Mass Power Forward, you can go to the following link: <http://mapowerforward.com/>

Why is the sign on letter important?

The sign on letter for local elected officials re the ‘pipeline tax’ and new pipelines will be particularly used in support of upcoming legislation which 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.

The “pipeline tax” is not definitively dead:

As you may know, Spectra, Eversource and National Grid are still working to achieve a MA pipeline tax through state legislation, which can ‘supersede’ the ruling of the Supreme Judicial Court against the tax.

In answer to questions about whether we really need more new gas pipelines:

First, we refer you to the Attorney General’s study which:

- Showed increased gas capacity is not needed to meet the state's electric reliability needs
- found no regional electric reliability issues through 2030

- found cheaper, cleaner alternatives to new gas pipelines to meet worst case power scenarios

Here is a link to the AG's Study:

<http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2015/2015-11-18-electric-reliability-study.html>

Second, we should be fixing gas leaks rather than building new pipelines. A January 2015 study by scientists at Harvard University estimated that there are roughly 20,000 gas leaks in the greater Boston area, and fixing just those leaks would yield enough gas to heat roughly 200,000 homes!

(Source: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2015/08/20/new-law-casts-light-state-natural-gas-leaks/qJJPCjRZITc5ai0JeHNOqO/story.html>)

We need to transition to clean energy – now -- not tax citizens to pay for new unnecessary gas pipelines.

Natural gas is not clean energy.

“Natural gas” is 95% methane – a potent greenhouse gas.

Over a 20 year time frame, methane warms the planet 86 times more than carbon dioxide.

Sources:

<https://thinkprogress.org/more-bad-news-for-fracking-ipcc-warns-methane-traps-much-more-heat-than-we-thought-9c2badf392df#.waekigbqr>

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-bad-of-a-greenhouse-gas-is-methane/>

Fracked natural gas is even worse – it has added toxins.

New pipeline infrastructure would carry fracked gas from the Appalachian Basin.

Like all large fracked gas pipeline projects, Spectra's Algonquin pipeline expansion is a huge toxic, industrial infrastructure consisting of compressor stations, metering and regulating stations, pigging facilities, LNG (liquid natural gas) storage terminals, and more. Fracked gas coming through this infrastructure carries toxic and carcinogenic chemicals as well as radioactive

elements from the fracking sites. These are released at many points in the distribution system. In addition, 'blow-downs' at compressor stations release volatile organic compounds and other toxins.

Sources:

<https://content.sierraclub.org/grassrootsnetwork/team-news/2015/08/what-health-conditions-are-associated-compressor-station-emissions>

Mass Health Care Professionals Against Fracked Gas mhcpafg.org