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WOMEN'S ISSUES

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ELECTIONS
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2/24/2020

Prevent National Grid from using our constituents' money to build pipelines without community consent

Dear Governor Cuomo and Commissioner Rhodes,

We, the undersigned elected officials, urge you to deny National Grid's request for a rate hike in the current rate case proceeding under the regulatory oversight of our Public Service Commission (PSC).

National Grid's current proposal requests an additional \$185 million in customer rate hikes to build an unnecessary expansion of their gas system which is premised on the approval of the proposed Williams Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE), which New York State has already denied twice. We applaud your administration's climate leadership in preventing the approval of this project, which would cost our constituents nearly \$1 billion.

National Grid's agreement to end their self-imposed moratorium with the PSC, and further agree to host public hearings for long-term solutions, ensures that New Yorkers experience a more transparent and equitable process. Despite an agreement for transparency, they have been moving forward with construction on a transmission pipeline through North Brooklyn, called Metropolitan Reliability Infrastructure (MRI), without community dialogue. National Grid has blind-sided most residents and local businesses with this North Brooklyn MRI pipeline.

As elected leaders of New York, we ask you to continue to stand up to their continued bullying tactics, and decline their request to charge our constituents to further expand National Grid's MRI project.

Facts about the North Brooklyn "MRI" Pipeline project National Grid has not revealed to our constituents:

- **This is not about "modernizing"** our gas system for heating and cooking. This is about creating an excuse to **charge rate-payers** more money and grow profits for National Grid's shareholders.
- This is a transmission pipeline. It will **not service the community in which it's being built**, where the heavily trafficked main thoroughfares and already stressed **trucking routes for local businesses** will be dug up.
- This project **holds us back from achieving our renewable energy goals**. We should be mandating the replacement of all gas pipelines with shared geothermal loops and energy efficiency measures in our buildings.

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- This project is **disguised as a local upgrade by segmentation**, while it is actually a much larger project ending at a liquified natural gas (LNG) depot and compressed natural gas (CNG) and other fracking infrastructure facilities in Greenpoint.
- **National Grid is requesting almost \$185 million in ratepayer dollars** over the next three years to complete the project. Should it move forward, New Yorkers will be forced to pay for National Grid's stranded assets.
- **Gas pipelines are not safe.** According to the United State Pipeline and Hazardous Safety Materials Administration (PHMSA), between 2016 and 2018 there was an average of 639 pipeline incidents per year resulting in a total of 15 fatalities, 72 injuries, and a cost to the public of nearly \$600 million.
- **Fracking exacerbates climate change.** Gas infrastructure leaks methane, which is 86 to 101 times worse for atmospheric warming than carbon dioxide. Climate change is destroying the Earth's ability to sustain life and increased methane emissions is only exacerbating this crisis.
- The industry coined the term "natural" gas to create the sense that it is harmless, but the extraction, transport, and burning of this gas **destroys the health of our water, land, and air.** Additionally, there are **high levels of radioactivity** in fracked gas from Pennsylvania, as well as air pollutants that are detrimental to asthma patients, children, and pets.
- **This pipeline goes against city and state climate laws** to reduce greenhouse emissions and as those laws are implemented **will become a stranded asset** that leaves low- to middle-income New Yorkers to foot the bill.
- National Grid states this pipeline is meant to reduce dependence on Con Edison at the Newtown Creek in a 2018 audit, and their 2019 testimony, yet this does **not address reducing the community's dependence on fossil fuels, which they are mandated to do.**

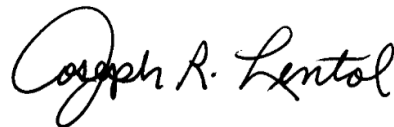
Governor Cuomo and Commissioner Rhodes, you can stop National Grid's bullying tactics by denying their next rate hike request, which would stop the noisy and polluting construction on this unnecessary pipeline.

Sincerely,

Senator Julia Salazar



Assemblymember Joseph Lentol



Councilmember Antonio Reynoso



Comptroller Scott M. Stringer



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Senator Kevin Parker



Senator Zellnor Myrie



Assistant Speaker Félix W. Ortiz



Assemblymember Maritza Davila
District Leader 53rd district



Assemblymember Robert Carroll



Assemblymember Gottfried



Assemblymember Harvey Epstein



Assemblymember Aravella Simotas



Assemblymember Michael Miller



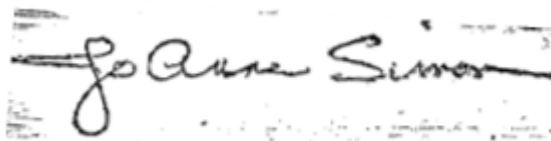
Assemblymember William Colton



Assemblymember Phillip Steck



Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon



Assemblymember Barbara Lifton

Assemblywoman Rebecca Seawright

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Councilmember Stephen Levin



Tommy Torres
District Leader 53rd district



Nick Rizzo
District Leader Assembly District 50

