



November 2, 2022

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Office of the Governor of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

Re: HB 2458, the “Philadelphia LNG Export Task Force Act”

Delaware Riverkeeper Network opposes HB2458, dubbed the “Philadelphia LNG Export Task Force Act”. We respectfully request that you veto HB 2458, which is planning to turn Philadelphia and the Southeast Pennsylvania Delaware River Watershed region into a liquefied natural gas (LNG) export hub. This terrible idea will cause environmental and public health harms and more methane releases will worsen the climate crisis.

Philadelphia is the most densely populated city in Pennsylvania with 1,546,920 people. The Greater Philadelphia Region, Chester and other southeast Pennsylvania communities within the Delaware River Port Region are among the top ten cities in density in the Commonwealth. LNG facilities, according to the federal government’s guidance, are supposed to be located in “remote” locations due to the dangers associated with the unique properties of LNG, which is highly flammable and potentially explosive, and can cause catastrophic loss of life and infrastructure damage. The Delaware River Ports are NOT remote; many millions of people live and work here.

Our communities in the Philadelphia region are already overburdened with environmental pollution that forces intolerable human health and environmental impacts on people of color and low-income populations who are working hard to reverse these harms by throwing off such oppression. To layer on more environmental threats is not only wrong, it violates the basic rights of Pennsylvanians to clean air, water and healthy communities.¹ There is no justification to add more burdens here or in the communities where fracking and its infrastructure is occurring.

¹ Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. “§ 27. Natural resources and the public estate. The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the

The General Assembly states in Section 2 of the proposed Act “The General Assembly finds and declares that due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, it is essential for this Commonwealth to have the means to export liquefied natural gas to other countries to reduce their reliance on Russian energy”.² The claim that the export of LNG from the Philadelphia Ports will assist Europe to reduce the use of gas from Russia is simply wrong.

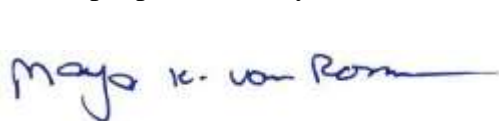
First, the LNG won't get there in time to meet any near-term emergency, which is being met by already existing energy sources. Furthermore, the extended forecast does not include Europe importing U.S. fracked gas. In fact, a combination of high prices, energy security concerns due to the Ukraine/Russia situation, and climate policies is expected to dramatically reduce gas consumption in Europe over the coming years. The latest targets, outlined by the European Union's "REPowerEU" strategy, call for a roughly 40% drop in gas consumption over the next few years, through 2030.³ Since LNG is the most expensive source of gas for the EU, it is most likely that LNG imports will drop -- even if LNG import capacity grows.

Europe is rapidly moving to eliminate imported energy altogether and develop renewable, sustainable non-fossil energy sources that they control. Shipping LNG to Europe will be neither timely, affordable, nor necessary.

In fact, in Europe and across the world, fossil fuel development is being replaced by jobs and investments in truly clean, renewable and innovative technology that does not emit greenhouse gases and does not have the heavy environmental, climate, and public health burdens that fracking, LNG, and its infrastructure entail.

Even if the environmental and human health burdens of fossil fuel development are not recognized, this proposed Task Force is a waste of time and money. To waste Pennsylvanians' hard earned taxes on a misdirected task force that aims to throw money at a mirage that is being fabricated to rationalize this so-called “hub” is irresponsible and blind to the what we really need – investment in clean, renewable energy sources that benefit Pennsylvanians and the world as we face the ravages of climate change.

DRN is asking that you please consider your legacy in light of the enormous effect that your veto would have on those here today and future generations. You can make the right choice to veto HB2458 and stand with the people of Pennsylvania and our future generations. Thank you for your consideration,



Maya van Rossum
the Delaware Riverkeeper



Tracy Carluccio
Deputy Director

benefit of all the people.” (May 18, 1971, P.L.769, J.R.3).

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/CT/HTM/00/00.001..HTM>

²<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=PDF&sessYr=2021&sessInd=0&billBody=H&billType=B&billNbr=2458&pn=2981>

³ McWilliams, B., G. Sgaravatti, S. Tagliapietra and G. Zachmann (2022) ‘A grand bargain to steer through the European Union’s energy crisis’, *Policy Contribution* 14/2022. [Report by the EU think-tank Bruegel](#)