

December 8, 2020

Dear President Elect Joseph Biden,

We, the undersigned 94 organizations, write to ask you to help stop a proposal to build a liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminal on the Delaware River that poses disastrous environmental and public safety threats for millions of people, including the state of Delaware. The Governors of Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania and the federal representative from the Army Corps of Engineers are potentially voting tomorrow, December 9, on the permit. We ask you to contact them, the Commissioners of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), to ask them not to approve this project.

The proposed export terminal would be located in Gibbstown, New Jersey, 6.32 miles upstream from Delaware. The construction and operation of the Gibbstown LNG terminal wharf and infrastructure would increase PCB pollution in the Delaware River Estuary, breaching clean water laws, according to a recent report from the Natural Resources Defense Council.

(<https://on.nrdc.org/36WDeTp>) The project would not comply with the mandatory PCB discharge requirements under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the estuary, harming water quality, fish and aquatic life and threatening the coastal resources and public safety of downstream Delaware. However, the DRBC, the agency that will vote on the permit, is not adequately considering this issue as it decides tomorrow on whether to approve the terminal.

As President Elect and a former U.S. Senator, we know you are committed to protecting the health and safety of the public and our environment. The Trump Administration has done its best to devastate our clean water laws during his tenure and, through an Executive Order, has pushed this project. A Special Permit was rushed to the owners of this facility to allow for the transport of LNG in rail cars, a practice previously banned by the federal government due to public safety issues. LNG is a highly flammable and potentially explosive cargo that is different from any other hazardous material being transported today. Yet under the special treatment given this company, rail cars designed 50 years ago and never tested for LNG transport will be used to carry LNG from a plant proposed in northcentral Pennsylvania 200 miles to Gibbstown, risking over a million people along the way. In fact, the Attorneys General from 14 states, including all four Delaware River Basin states, have legally challenged a broader federal rule that would allow this transport nationwide. (<https://bit.ly/3gxirZN>)

It is imperative to note that population data along the path of the transport routes for the Gibbstown terminal show that black and brown and low-income communities would be exposed to the most intense and inescapable zone of impact should there be an accident such as a derailment.¹ The City of Wilmington has passed a resolution opposing the Gibbstown LNG terminal, citing this environmental injustice. The Gibbstown LNG project is in direct conflict with the philosophy and science-based decisionmaking your administration is proposing under the Biden plan to secure environmental justice and equitable economic opportunity. It is also important to recognize that Delaware has a longstanding ban of LNG facilities in its coastal zone management regulations based on public safety and environmental risks that Delaware considers insurmountable. (<https://bit.ly/39SSt1u>)

The climate impacts of the release of methane, the most potent of greenhouse gases, by this project and its supply chain, are enormous. As stated by NRDC regarding the report on LNG

¹ Delaware Riverkeeper Network, <https://www.delawariverkeeper.org/taxonomy/term/1174>

released today, "The recent decision by France to reject U.S. LNG imports demonstrates, these staggering emissions are inconsistent with the recent decisions by China, Japan, South Korea and the European Union to set firm deadlines to become carbon neutral. With the incoming Biden administration making bold commitments to decarbonize, it's imperative that it recognize the peril of LNG, as well." (<https://www.nrdc.org/media/2020/201207>) We know you support the development of clean, renewable energy that will benefit public health, our environment, and our economy by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We ask that you relay to the DRBC that we cannot allow the greenhouse gas emissions from this project to exacerbate the climate crisis we are facing.

The Delaware River is the water supply for 17 million people, is a Wild and Scenic River and a National Estuary. We ask that you express to the Governors and the Army Corps your opposition to the approval of this project and request that they vote not to approve the terminal - "Dock 2" Docket D-2017-009-2. The Commissioner addresses are here: <https://bit.ly/3mWGXpL>

Respectfully requested,

Adrienne Morgado, 350.Org Bucks County

Jeanne Jordan, Action Together New Jersey

Mordechai Liebling, Be The Change

Linda Blatnik, Bergen County Immigration Strategy Group

Karen Feridun, Berks Gas Truth

Karen Feridun, Better Path Coalition

John Reichman, BlueWaveNJ

Councilwoman Eleanor Kelly, Borough of Runnemede

Matthew Mehalik, Breathe Project

Sharon Furlong, Bucks Environmental Action

Wes Gillingham, Catskill Mountainkeeper

Jon Compton, Center for Environmental Transformation

Sid Madison, Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War

Linda Powell, Central Jersey Environmental Defenders

Joseph Minott, Clean Air Council

Cindy Zipf, Clean Ocean Action

Eric Benson, Clean Water Action

Paula Rogovin, Coalition to Ban Unsafe Oil Trains

Joyce Rudin, Coalition to Save South Mountain Reservation

Harriet Shugarman, ClimateMama

Melanie Segal, The Climate Mobilization North Jersey

Donald Hebbard, Compressor Free Franklin

Robert O. Tallon, Crafts Creek Watershed Association

Barbara Arrindell, Damascus Citizens for Sustainability

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and Tracy Carluccio, Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Keith Voos, Drawdown New York City

David L. Steinberg, Eco District of Philadelphia

Jarrett Cloud, Employment Horizons

EMPOWER NJ

Doug O'Malley, Environment New Jersey

Alison L Steele, Environmental Health Project

Courtenay Willcox, Environmental Justice Committee, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Lisa Reznik, Film Society of Summit

Matt Smith, Food & Water Watch

Brook Lenker, FracTracker Alliance

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Chad Oba, Friends of Buckingham

Kate Ruddock, Friends of the Earth Ireland

Sam Pesin, Friends of Liberty State Park

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Carol E. Gay, NJ State Industrial Union Council
Jeff Tittel, New Jersey Sierra Club
Diane Scarangella, North Jersey Sierra Group
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Richard Curtin, Not Here Not Anywhere, Ireland
Keith Voos, NY-NJ Metro Pachamama Alliance Community
Sally Jane Gellert, Occupy Bergen County
Sally Malanga, Our Green West Orange
Justin Goldsman, Our Revolution Essex County
David Masur, PennEnvironment
State Senator Katie Muth, Pennsylvania State Senate, SD-44
Adrian Rivera-Reyes, PhillyBoricuas
Tammy Murphy, Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Rhyann Grech, Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Roberta Bondurant, Preserve Bent Mountain
Lynda Majors, Preserve Montgomery County VA
Rebekah Sale, Property Rights and Pipeline Center
Diana Dakey, Protect Northern PA
Gillian Graber, Protect Penn-Trafford
Steven Smith, Ramapough Lenape Nation
William Kibler, Raritan Headwaters Association
Jonathan Cloud, Regenerative Financing
Johnny McElligott, Safety Before LNG, Ireland
John Young, Save RGV from LNG
Joseph Campbell, Seneca Lake Guardian, A Waterkeeper Alliance Affiliate
Nicole Zanetakos, Sierra Club
Sean Lee. SJDSA
Kathleen Ann Richards, SoftComTech

Jae M. Zimmermann, SOMA Justice

Linda Reik, Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development

Gloria M. Ron-Fornes, Summit Area Indivisible

John Weber, Surfrider Foundation

Lucas Slott, Sustainable West Milford

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