

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

House of Representatives

State House, Boston 02133-1054

September 3, 2015

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Secretary Bose:

Please accept this letter as a statement of concern regarding the FERC scoping process as it relates to the Kinder Morgan proposed Northeast Extension Pipeline project (**Project Docket Number PF14-22-000**).

It has been stated by the members of the FERC scoping commission, in their recent public hearings, that it is their intention to take a "hard look" at the proposed pipeline extension. We are asking that this "hard look" be directed, not only as to the scope and siting of the proposed natural gas pipeline, but as to the necessity of the pipeline extension in its entirety.

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker has issued the following general statement:

"Governor Baker is committed to diversifying the Commonwealth's energy portfolio to reduce costs and ensure reliability for Massachusetts ratepayers through a balanced approach of renewable energy investments, increasing energy efficiency and expanding natural gas capacity along existing routes. (emphasis added)" – Billy Pitman, Deputy Communications Director

We stand with Governor Baker in this position. Massachusetts has existing pipeline infrastructure that we believe can be expanded to adequately provide for the existing need for natural gas energy in the northeast region. However, it is our hope that reliance on natural gas moving forward shall diminish as newer sources of clean renewable energy become more prevalent. Governor Baker recently introduced a hydropower initiative to this end, as well as a solar energy bill that would raise the public and private net metering caps and provide a revenue stream for solar projects to help the state reach its goal of 1,600 megawatts of solar development by 2020. We, along with our fellow legislators, are committed to reducing our dependency on natural gas in favor of other types of renewable energy sources like hydropower and solar energy, and will work to see that more initiatives toward this end are sought. The proposed pipelines are intended to support our needs for up to 100 years, but we can say, without reservation, that it is our commitment to work towards making natural gas a minor player in the energy arena of the future. As a state that has been a leader in advancements in energy technology research, we feel confident that this goal can be realized.

In addition, we have grave concerns about the siting process. As presently proposed the expanded pipeline will affect both private land and land we have sought to protect by amending our state constitution. Article 97 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts states:

"The people shall have the right to clean air and water, freedom from excessive and unnecessary noise, and the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic qualities of their environment; and the protection of the people in their right to the conservation, development and utilization of the agricultural, mineral, forest, water, air and other natural resources is hereby declared to be a public purpose. The general court shall have the power to enact legislation necessary or expedient to protect such rights. In the furtherance of the foregoing powers, the general court shall have the power to provide for the taking, upon payment of just compensation therefor, or for the acquisition by purchase or otherwise, of lands and easements or such other interests therein as may be deemed necessary to accomplish these purposes. Lands and easements taken or acquired for such purposes shall not be used for other purposes or otherwise disposed of except by laws enacted by a two thirds vote, taken by yeas and nays, of each branch of the general court."

In initial meetings with legislators in 2014, Kinder Morgan expressed its commitment to comply with all state and local laws and regulations. We are asking that FERC hold Kinder Morgan to this commitment. We also ask that FERC recognize how important the protection of our natural resources is to the people of this Commonwealth. Disruption to the quality of our environment, when other less disruptive alternatives are available, is something that should certainly be subject to the scrutiny of the Massachusetts legislative body, as prescribed by Article 97. We ask that you respect this process.

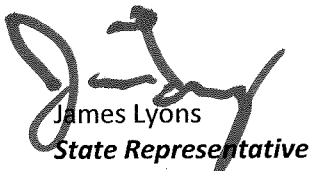
We also have serious concerns about the environmental, health and safety risks associated with gas line leaks in the Commonwealth's existing natural gas pipeline infrastructure, and how those risks would be exacerbated by a project of the magnitude Kinder Morgan is proposing. In 2014, the Massachusetts Legislature enacted legislation requiring utility companies to report the location and age of all natural gas leaks in their pipelines, and to work towards repairing these leaks. According to a new report by the Cambridge-based Home Energy Efficiency Team, utility companies have identified approximately 20,000 "potentially dangerous and environmentally damaging leaks" within the existing distribution system in Massachusetts. It is our belief that this problem must be addressed before we commit to adding new pipelines.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions regarding our position as it is outlined in this letter. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



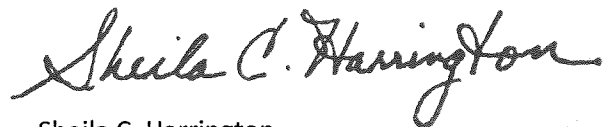
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.
Minority Leader



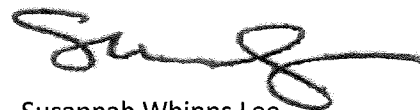
James Lyons
State Representative



Leah Cole
State Representative



Sheila C. Harrington
State Representative



Susannah Whipps Lee
State Representative