



August 28, 2019

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Long Island Natural Gas Moratorium

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of the Long Island economic development and labor community, represented by the Association for a Better Long Island, Building and Construction Trades Council of Nassau & Suffolk Counties, Long Island Association, Long Island Builders Institute, and Long Island Federation of Labor, we write to express our tremendous concern regarding the current natural gas moratorium on Long Island.

Critical economic development projects are currently on stand-by during the natural gas moratorium and investor confidence in our region is in jeopardy. Should the moratorium continue, billions of pledged private and public funds, earmarked for hundreds of projects in our region, are at risk of being repurposed or allocated elsewhere. In addition to hindering transformative projects, the moratorium is hurting “mom-and-pop” shops as well as homeowners desiring to be more energy efficient by converting from oil to natural gas. The impact of the moratorium is widespread and all encompassing.

As our region’s demand for efficient, affordable energy continues to grow, we are required to look ahead to ensure that our communities have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet that demand. To do this, we need to ensure that a mix of energy sources that are reliable, affordable, and clean are in place as we continue to grow. Our coalition members are strong advocates for a renewable energy future and we welcome the opportunity to expand an emerging Green Jobs market that accompanies the changes in energy policy. We commend you on your recent solar and off shore wind initiatives.

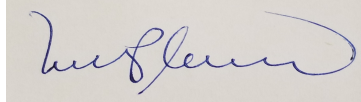
With all the data and information available to us, at this time, it is convincingly clear the Northeast Supply Enhancement (“NESE”) project is vital and will protect Long Island’s economic viability. The project will provide the necessary bridge fuel that Natural Gas was intended to be for our region as we move forward with renewable energy sources and will end the natural gas moratorium. While we all realize the peril of not acting quickly enough to reverse the effects of climate change, we must also recognize the disastrous economic consequences of preventing NESE to move forward.

It is critical that New York State Department of Environmental Conservation approve the NESE project that will end the current natural gas moratorium as soon as possible. Otherwise, the last eight years of your successful economic development efforts on Long Island will be significantly threatened.

Sincerely yours,




Kyle Strober, Executive Director
Association for a Better Long Island



Matthew Aracich, President
Building & Construction Trades
Council of Nassau & Suffolk Counties



Kevin Law, President & CEO
Long Island Association



Mitch Pally, CEO
Long Island Builders Institute



John Durso, President
Long Island Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

cc: Basil Seggos, Commissioner, NYS DEC
Long Island NYS Senate Delegation
Long Island NYS Assembly Delegation
Nassau County Executive Laura Curran
Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone