

April 8, 2025

His Excellency Ned Lamont
Governor of Connecticut

Her Excellency Kathleen Hochul
Governor of New York

Her Excellency Janet T. Mills
Governor of Maine

His Excellency Joshua D. Shapiro
Governor of Pennsylvania

Her Excellency Maura Healey
Governor of Massachusetts

His Excellency Daniel J. McKee
Governor of Rhode Island

Her Excellency Kelly Ayotte
Governor of New Hampshire

His Excellency Philip B. Scott
Governor of Vermont

His Excellency Philip D. Murphy
Governor of New Jersey

Dear Governors:

Thirteen years ago, people in the Western Catskills of New York State were determined to stop the Constitution Pipeline through legal and political means. They were joined a few years later by people across Massachusetts, New York State, New Hampshire, and Connecticut who were equally resolved to prevent the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) pipeline project from ravaging backyards, watersheds and farmlands. Organizations, citizens groups, and local and state governments united, decrying the environmental destruction and the use of eminent domain for private gain. They succeeded in stopping the Constitution Pipeline, NED, and the Northeast Supply Enhancement project. A few years later, the people in New Jersey and Pennsylvania stopped PennEast. We will not let the pipelines come back.

On February 14, 2025, after signing an executive order establishing the National Energy Dominance Council, President Trump called for building a pipeline that had been blocked by New York State.¹ Secretary Burgum, who chairs the council, confirmed it was the Constitution Pipeline. The President claims that everyone wants this pipeline, it could be built in less than a year, and it would substantially lower energy costs in New York and New England. Secretary Wright has subsequently said there are other stalled pipelines that should be built.

These false claims are a serious threat to state sovereignty, jeopardizing our natural resources, water quality, and climate goals. The 233 undersigned organizations ask you, as the leaders of our States, to stand united with each other and with us, to protect our hard-fought victories against the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure and to focus on fulfilling our climate goals.

¹ See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-juovCKHqAs&t=610s>, begins at 10:10.

We know that if one pipeline gets built, more will be proposed or revived. For example, the Constitution Pipeline would end in Wright, NY,² but the existing pipelines at that intersection are already at capacity for much of the year.³ That means additional pipelines would be needed to transport Constitution’s gas to either New York City or New England. Therefore, given the aggressive goals of the Energy Dominance Council, people along the routes of all stalled or officially abandoned infrastructure projects must be on high alert, including those who would be impacted by NED.

Building billion-dollar pipelines does not reduce costs for consumers – ratepayers foot the bill.⁴ The Massachusetts Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, when recently asked about new gas infrastructure, explained that gas spot market prices peak in New England for about seven days every winter, and stated, “You don’t build a gigantic pipeline for seven days a year.”⁵

There is no reason to go back. Today, more people than ever are awake, engaged, and resolved to stand up against the tyranny of greed. We have real solutions, and we are implementing them.

² Despite what has been stated on social media and elsewhere, the Constitution Pipeline Company has no license or permits to construct the pipeline project and would have to start all over again. NYSDEC denied the application for the 401 Water Quality Certification in 2016 because Constitution persistently refused to submit the information it requested about alternative routes and how Constitution would cross dozens of streams. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit held that the state is not preempted by the federal government, is authorized to consider alternative routes, and was justified in denying the application because of Constitution Pipeline’s unjustified refusal to submit information about stream crossings. Any future application by Constitution to the NYSDEC would have to comply with the Second Circuit’s August 18, 2017 decision. After the company abandoned the project in 2020, the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit vacated two of FERC's orders (on November 18, 2021): (1) FERC's 2014 certificate of public convenience and necessity on which all other permits rely; and (2) FERC's 2019 decision that NYSDEC waived its right to deny the 401 Water Quality Certificate by taking too long to make a decision.

³ See <https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/dpsresponseletter.pdf>.

⁴ Interstate pipeline companies receive a rate of return upwards of 15% (<https://www.ngsa.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/06/NGSA-ROE-Report-2018-2022-Web.pdf>), funded by their customers, including the natural gas distribution companies that turn around with their own markup on ratepayers. See <https://www.hennessyfunds.com/insights/sector-highlight-naturalgas-infrastructure> (“Natural gas distribution companies operate under a rate of return (ROR) regulatory framework, which allows them to pass onto their customers, in the form of price increases, the cost of their investments, plus a rate of return typically between 8% and 11%. Effectively, the more a natural gas distribution company invests, the more it can earn.”). See also <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/files/docs/Ratemaking%20for%20Energy%20Pipelines%20071111.pdf>.

⁵ March 10, 2025, “Governor Healey Announces Energy Affordability Agenda,” see comments of Secretary Tepper at 37 minutes and 50 seconds (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WiU5QU5F52o&t=37m50s>).

Our region is closing fossil fuel plants, increasing renewable energy generation, and continuing to ramp up energy efficiency. Massachusetts has adopted a Clean Peak Standard to reduce reliance on fossil fuels during times of peak energy demand,⁶ and that state has also established the nation’s first Office of Energy Transformation,⁷ with a mission “to accelerate the energy transformation, with a focus on gas-to-electric transition, electric grid readiness, and an affordable and just transition for workers, businesses, and communities.”⁸ Rhode Island is home to the first U.S. offshore wind farm.⁹ In 2023, New York ranked third among all states for total renewable power generation.¹⁰ That year, wind farms in Vermont accounted for about 13% of that state’s total electricity net generation,¹¹ while New Jersey was the nation’s 12th-largest producer of electricity from solar energy and ranked 7th in small-scale solar power generation.¹² Solar energy now accounts for approximately one quarter of Massachusetts’ in-state electricity net generation.¹³ Maine is a global leader in heat pump adoption, and their solar installations have grown by 1200% since 2019.¹⁴

As for energy efficiency, Rhode Island residents consume the least energy per capita of all fifty states; on a per capita basis, eight of the 17 least energy-intensive states are in the Northeast (including all New England states, New York, and New Jersey).¹⁵ In 2022, New York used less energy to produce a dollar of GDP than any other state; Massachusetts and Connecticut also rank among the top five states on this metric.¹⁶ New Hampshire reported a 37% reduction in energy-

⁶ See <https://www.mass.gov/clean-peak-energy-standard>. See also Miriam Wasser, “How ‘virtual power plants’ help reduce peak power demand in New England,” Aug. 28, 2024 (<https://www.wbur.org/news/2024/08/28/virtual-power-plants-eversource-massachusetts-batteries-ev-chargers>).

⁷ See <https://www.mass.gov/news/healey-driscoll-administration-establishes-nations-first-office-of-energy-transformation>.

⁸ See <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/office-of-energy-transformation>.

⁹ See <https://www.eia.gov/state/print.php?sid=ri>.

¹⁰ See <https://www.eia.gov/state/print.php?sid=ny>.

¹¹ See <https://www.eia.gov/state/print.php?sid=vt>.

¹² See <https://www.eia.gov/state/print.php?sid=nj>.

¹³ See <https://www.eia.gov/state/print.php?sid=ma>.

¹⁴ (See https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov/future/files/2023-12/_2023_MWW%20Progress%20Report.pdf, <https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=me>).

¹⁵ See https://www.eia.gov/state/seds/data.php?incfile=/state/seds/sep_sum/html/rank_use_capita.html&sid=US.

¹⁶ See https://www.eia.gov/state/seds/data.php?incfile=/state/seds/sep_sum/html/rank_use_gdp.html&sid=US.

related carbon-dioxide emissions between 2005 and 2017, and a simultaneous 15% increase in GDP.¹⁷

Northeastern states have clean energy transition goals and mandates to be proud of. Our stance against the buildout of gas infrastructure, after all we have achieved, is non-negotiable.

Thank you to each of your administrations for your role in moving us towards a cleaner energy system that is protective of our environment, and of our rights to self-determination as states, communities, and landowners. We cannot back down now. We are just getting started.

Respectfully,

Stop the Pipeline (STP) and Pipe Line Awareness Network for the Northeast (PLAN)
(Letter drafters)

and 231 Co-sponsors:

Acadia Center
New England

Advocates for Cherry Valley
Cherry Valley, New York

Allegheny County Clean Air Now (ACCAN)
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Alliance Ashfield
Ashfield, Massachusetts

Alliance of Maine Health Professionals for
Climate Action, Maine

Andover WECAN
Andover, Massachusetts

Ashfield Affinity Group
Ashfield, Massachusetts

Bear River Bee Farm
Ashfield, Massachusetts

Berks Gas Truth
Berks County, Pennsylvania

Berkshire Environmental Action Team
Massachusetts

Berkshire Environmental Board /
Berkshire Alliance for Sustainable Schools
Berkshires of Western Massachusetts

Berkshire Contractor LLC
Berkshire County, Massachusetts

¹⁷ See <https://www.wri.org/insights/ranking-41-us-states-decoupling-emissions-and-gdp-growth>.

Better Path Coalition
Pennsylvania

Boston Catholic Climate Movement
Boston, Massachusetts

Breathe Easy Susquehanna County
Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania

Bucks Environmental Action
Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Campaign for Renewable Energy
Tompkins County, New York

Catskill Mountainkeeper
Catskills, New York

Center for Oil and Gas Organizing
National

Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Chesapeake Watershed Region

Clarkdale Fruit Farms
Deerfield, Massachusetts

Climate Disobedience Center
National (Based in New England)

Climate Reality Project, Lehigh Valley
Chapter, Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania

Climate Reality Project, Southern CT Chapter
Connecticut

Coalition for Social Justice Education Fund
South Coast Massachusetts

Beyond Extreme Energy
National

Breathe Easy Berkshires
Berkshire County, Massachusetts

Brookhaven Residents' Climate Change
Committee, Lexington, Massachusetts

Butternut Valley Indivisible
Morris, Pittsfield, Gilbertsville &
Butternuts, New York

Canton Residents for Sustainable Equitable
Future, Canton, Massachusetts

Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now
Central New York State

CFCG NJ
New Jersey

Citizens United for Renewable Energy
(CURE), New Jersey

Climate Action Now Western Mass
Hampshire, Hampden & Franklin Counties,
Massachusetts

Climate Reality NEPA
Pennsylvania

Climate Reality Project, Massachusetts
Southcoast, Massachusetts

Coalition Against the Rockaway Pipeline
New York City

Coalition of Landowners
Franklin County, Massachusetts

Coalition to Protect New York
New York & the Marcellus Shale Region

CODEPINK
Massachusetts

Compressor and pipeline opposition in
Windsor (CAPOW), Windsor, Massachusetts

Concerned Citizens (Pelham, NH)
Pelham, New Hampshire

Concerned Citizens of New Hampshire
Monadnock Region, New Hampshire

Concerned Citizens of Otego, NY
Otego, New York

Concerned Health Professionals of
Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania

Concerned Residents of Oxford
Oxford, New York

Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG)
Connecticut

Connecticut River Defenders
Connecticut RIVER Valley, Massachusetts

Conservation Law Foundation
New England

Cooperstown/Oneonta Indivisible
Otsego County, New York

Crone House Farm
Saco, Maine

Dalton Democratic Town Committee
Dalton, Massachusetts

Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Delaware River Watershed,
(DE, NJ, NY, PA)

Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society
Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie & Chenango
Counties, New York

DiBianca Associates
NJ, PA, NY & New England

Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
Northern New Jersey

DWA Indivisible of the Lower CT River
Valley, Middlesex County, Connecticut

Earth Ministry Team, First Church Amherst,
UCC, Amherst, Massachusetts

Earthkeeper Health Resources
National

Elders Climate Action Massachusetts Chapter
Massachusetts

Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking
Elmira, New York

Environmental Health Project
CT, NY, PA

Environmental League of Massachusetts
Massachusetts

Esprit Decor
NJ, PA, & NY

Extinction Rebellion SWCT
Southwest Connecticut

FCCPR Climate Crisis Task Force
Franklin County, Massachusetts

Feary Farm
New Jersey

Food & Water Watch
National

Food & Water Watch Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania

Fore River Residents Against Compressor
Station (FRRACS), Weymouth, Massachusetts

FrackBusters NY
New York

FracTracker Alliance
National

Franklin County Continuing the Political
Revolution, Franklin County, Massachusetts

FreshWater Accountability Project
Ohio

Gas Free Seneca
Watkins Glen, New York

Gas Transition Allies
Massachusetts

Grandmothers' Village Project, Inc.
Randolph, Massachusetts

Grassroots Environmental Education
New York

Greater Boston Physicians for Social
Responsibility, Massachusetts

Green Dalton Committee
Dalton, Massachusetts

Green Energy Consumers Alliance
Massachusetts & Rhode Island

Green-Rainbow Party
Massachusetts

Greening Greenfield
Greenfield, Massachusetts

Greenpeace USA
National

GreenRoots
Massachusetts

HALT-Homeowners Against Land Taking
New Jersey

HealthLink
Marblehead/Swampscott/Salem Massachusetts

HEETlabs
Massachusetts

Heron Hill Farm Delaware Township, New Jersey	Hilltown Vision Hilltowns, Hampshire County, Massachusetts
Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition New York	Indivisible (MA) Massachusetts
Indivisible Cherry Valley Cherry Valley, New York	Indivisible for Schoharie County Schoharie County, New York
Indivisible West Quabbin Western Massachusetts	Jewish Climate Action Network Massachusetts
Lexington Climate Action Network (LexCAN) Lexington, Massachusetts	Longmeadow Energy and Sustainability Committee, Longmeadow, Massachusetts
Maine Council of Churches Maine	Maine Youth for Climate Justice Maine
Market Square Presbyterian Church Harrisburg, Pennsylvania	Massachusetts Climate Action Network Massachusetts
MassPLAN Massachusetts	McKean County Green Party McKean County, Pennsylvania
Merrimack Citizens for Pipeline Information Merrimack, New Hampshire	Middlefield Neighbors Middlefield, New York
Milford Doers Milford, Otsego County, New York	Millers River Watershed Council Central Massachusetts
Mohawk Valley Keeper Mohawk Valley New York	Mothers Out Front Massachusetts Massachusetts
Move Past Plastic (MPP) Carlisle, Pennsylvania	Nashoba Conservation Trust Massachusetts
Natural Resources Council of Maine Maine	NatureCulture® Northfield, Massachusetts

NEPA Green Coalition
Northeast Pennsylvania

New York Climate Action Group
New York

No Coal No Gas campaign
New England

No False Climate Solutions PA
Pennsylvania

No Fracked Gas in Mass
Massachusetts

No More Dirty Power in Killingly
Windham County, Connecticut

Nolumbeka Project Tribal Coalition
Vermont & Massachusetts

Nonprofit Accountability Group (NAG)
Connecticut

North American Climate, Conservation and
Environment (NACCE), Roosevelt, New York

North Harford Maple
Pennsylvania

North Quabbin Pipeline Action Group
Central & Western Massachusetts

Northfield Against the Pipeline
Northfield, Massachusetts

Northfield Tool Lending Library
Northfield, Massachusetts

Northjersey Pipeline Walkers
North Jersey

NY/NJ Baykeeper
Northern New Jersey & New York City

NYPAN environmental committee
New York

Occupy Bergen County
Bergen County, New Jersey

Olive You Pottery
Belchertown, Massachusetts

Otsego 2000
Otsego County, New York

Panarchy
NJ, PA, NY, & New England

Partnership for Policy Integrity
International

Patriots From The Oil & Gas Shales
Pennsylvania & National

Pelham Pipeline Awareness
Pelham, New Hampshire

Pennsylvania Action on Climate
Pennsylvania

People for a Healthy Environment
New York's Central Southern Tier

People's Action for Clean Energy
Connecticut

Physicians for Social Responsibility
Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania

Polar Planet
Colorado

Property Rights and Pipeline Center
National

Raritan Riverkeeper
Keasbey, New Jersey

Resist Spectra
Westchester, New York

Revolution Solar
New York

Safe Energy Rights Group (SEnRG)
North East Region

SAVE CARBON COUNTY
Carbon County, Pennsylvania

Schuylkill Pipeline Awareness
Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania

Sheffield Saves
Massachusetts

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter
New York

Sierra Club Maine
Maine

Sierra Club New Hampshire
New Hampshire

Pocumtuck Stewards of the Land, Inc.
Deerfield, Franklin County, Massachusetts

Progressive Democrats of America, NJ Chapter
New Jersey

Protect Orange County
Orange County, New York

Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga
(RAFT), Southern Tier, New York

Resist the Pipeline
Boston, Massachusetts

Rockland Coalition to End the New Jim Crow
Environmental Committee, Rockland County,
New York

Sane Energy Project
New York

Save the Sound
Long Island Sound

Seneca Lake Guardian
Finger Lakes New York

Shoppens Run Farm
Delaware Twp, Hunterdon Co, New Jersey

Sierra Club Connecticut
Connecticut

Sierra Club Massachusetts
Massachusetts

Sierra Club Vermont
Vermont

Skidmore College Environmental Action Club Saratoga Springs, New York	Slingshot New England
South Coast Neighbors United Southeastern Massachusetts	Springfield Climate Justice Coalition Springfield, MA
Springfield No One Leaves Western Massachusetts	Stop Project Maple Coalition CT, RI, MA, NY
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE), Westchester County, New York	Stop the Brookfield Compressor Brookfield, Connecticut
StopNED Central Massachusetts	Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development Sullivan County, New York
Summit Neighbors, Inc Schoharie County New York	Sunrise New Haven New Haven, Connecticut
Sunrise Nursery Supply Bainbridge, Chenango County, New York	Sustainable Lexington Committee Lexington, Massachusetts
Sustainable Middleborough Middleborough	Switzler Farm Stockton, New Jersey
Terras del Ray Farm New Jersey	The Climate Reality Project Southern Connecticut Chapter, Connecticut
The DiBianca Family Foundation NJ, PA, NY & New England	The Enviro Show The Northeast
The New Hampshire chapter of the Roman Catholic Laudato SI' Movement Parishes in New Hampshire	The Park Church Elmira, New York
The Schoharie Pulse Summit, New York Schoharie County	Third Act MA Massachusetts
Third Act Maine Maine	Third Act New Hampshire New Hampshire

Third Act NYC
New York City

Third Act Vermont
Vermont

Three Rivers Waterkeeper
Southwestern Pennsylvania

Tinker Tree Play/Care
New York, New York

Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative
Tompkins County, New York

Town of Ashby Conservation Commission
Ashby, Massachusetts

Town of Deerfield Selectboard
Deerfield, Massachusetts

Town of Pelham Planning Board
Pelham, Massachusetts

Town of Phillipston Open Space Committee
Phillipston, Massachusetts

Town of Rindge Conservation Commission
Rindge, New Hampshire

Town of Windsor Select Board
Windsor, Massachusetts

Transition Town Greater Media
South East Delaware County, Pennsylvania

Turtle Island Restoration Network
National

Union Hill Freedmen Family Research Group
Buckingham, Virginia

Unitarian Universalist Mass Action
Massachusetts

United For Clean Energy (U4CE)
Lower Hudson Valley, New York

Upper Allegheny Riverkeeper
Bradford, Pennsylvania

Upper Valley Affinity Group (Vermont)
Vermont & New Hampshire

UU Congregation of Binghamton, Green
Sanctuary, Binghamton, New York

Vermont Community Thermal Networks
Vermont

Vermont Conservation Voters
Vermont

VERMONT INTERFAITH POWER &
LIGHT, Vermont

Veterans for Climate Justice
National

Waterkeeper Alliance
National/International

Waterkeepers Chesapeake
Chesapeake Bay region

Waterspirit
New Jersey

Wendell State Forest Alliance (WSFA)
Wendell, Massachusetts

Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions
Peekskill, New York

Winthrop Mothers Out Front
Winthrop, Massachusetts

Worcester Congregations for Climate and
Environmental Justice, Central Massachusetts

XRBoston
Boston, Massachusetts

Yale Dems
New Haven, Connecticut

198 methods
National

350 Central Mass
Worcester County, Massachusetts

350 Mass
Massachusetts

350 New Hampshire Action
New Hampshire

350 Brooklyn
Brooklyn, New York

350 MA Berkshire Node
Berkshire County, Massachusetts

350 Vermont
Vermont