Call for a Moratorium
On natural gas projects undergoing construction or review in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Health Care Providers Against Fracked Gas

Whereas, health care providers are devoted to caring for patients, families, and communities in various capacities, strive to prevent and treat illness, and possess unique insight into health risks, and,

Whereas, natural gas is highly flammable and poses serious safety risks at all stages of processing and delivery including but not limited to interstate transmission pipelines, distribution pipelines, storage facilities, metering and regulating stations, compressor stations, and liquefied natural gas facilities, and,

Whereas, natural gas infrastructure systems are inherently prone to leaks because of the extremely high pressure of interstate transmission systems and poorly maintained, aging distribution systems in our cities and towns, and,

Whereas, interstate transmission pipelines and associated infrastructure are sited in locations that disrupt precious ecosystems and endanger communities, with no apparent limitation to the risks imposed, and,

Whereas, the operation of natural gas facilities generates toxic, cancer-causing, and radioactive pollution due to the presence of naturally co-occurring contaminants, toxic additives to the hydraulic fracturing process used to produce much of the country's natural gas supply, and through the operation of transmission pipelines as gas is processed and delivered, and,

Whereas, the environmental reviews for natural gas facility proposals are prepared by interested third parties in violation of federal agency conflict of interest policies, with no apparent regard for these conflicts, and,

Whereas, the environmental reviews for natural gas infrastructure evaluate impacts on pollutants only without directly considering health impacts, and,

Whereas, climate change impacts inherent in the use of natural gas (primarily composed of methane) are not evaluated as part of natural gas infrastructure proposals, despite mounting fatalities nationally from climate change disasters such as heat waves, wild fires, and floods,

Therefore, Massachusetts Health Care Providers Against Fracked Gas call for an immediate state-wide moratorium on all gas pipeline projects currently under construction and all projects currently under review until the health of our patients, families, and communities can be adequately taken into account through institution of a Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment process as we have outlined in our detailed white paper.

For a list of references and source documents, including our white paper, please contact masshcprovidersafg@gmail.com