

October 8, 2016

Governor Charlie Baker  
Massachusetts State House  
Office of the Governor Room 280  
Boston, Massachusetts 02113

Dear Governor Baker,

Raw methane and contaminants - derived from hydro-fracking and leaked, emitted, or released from gas pipelines, distribution and storage facilities - is toxic to humans. Over the last five years, studies of the adverse health effects of leaking methane contaminants have developed clear evidence of these effects. Our obsolete federal and state regulatory system has remained unresponsive to this public health hazard that is now affecting the health and safety of our patients and our communities.

We write today to request you declare an immediate Moratorium on the development of all pipeline infrastructure projects across Massachusetts - until a comprehensive health impact assessment can be performed and submitted to federal and state agencies to address the cumulative health hazards these pipelines pose to communities across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We note the following:

- Communities across the state are facing unprecedented development and expansion of "natural gas" pipeline infrastructure (Access Northeast-Spectra Energy, AIM [Algonquin Incremental Market]-Spectra Energy, Atlantic Bridge-Spectra Energy, West Roxbury/Dedham Algonquin Pipeline Expansion-Spectra Energy, Acushnet LNG Expansion-Spectra Energy, and Connecticut Expansion-Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas and Pipe)
- Nowhere in the Federal and State reviews of Environmental Impact on the communities targeted to host these large infrastructures is the risk to human health given consideration
- No assessment or evaluation of the potentially dangerous impact from the numerous toxic, carcinogenic, and radioactive pollutants these projects produce on the health of the citizens living in these communities is being performed

Therefore, the Massachusetts Health Care Providers Against Fracked Gas, a group of concerned health care professionals from across the state, is calling for the addition of a Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment (CHIA) to be added to all Environmental Assessments (EA) and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) performed by state and federal government before any further development of these pipelines is approved.

Please consider making the health of our communities and citizens a higher priority when calculating the social and economic value in the development of these pipelines.

Sincerely,

**Massachusetts Health Care Providers Against Fracked Gas**

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Encl. Call for Moratorium, CHIA