

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

House of Representatives

State House, Boston 02133-1054

April 13, 2016

Robert A. DeLeo
Speaker of the House
State House, Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Protecting Ratepayers and Our Environment

Dear Mr. Speaker,

We are grateful for your commitment to diversifying our energy generation resources, supporting new industry in our region, and moving our state toward meeting its environmental goals. We have an exciting opportunity to replace our aging power generation fleet with renewable energy resources. Not only will doing so bolster our state's economy by creating thousands of new jobs, but it will also help ensure that Massachusetts transitions to energy resources that are sustainable and aligned with our clean energy future. We look forward to further discussion about those opportunities in the coming weeks.

We write today to express our deep concern about one concept, however, and that is proposed ratepayer financing of gas pipeline infrastructure. We urge you to omit any public support for gas pipeline expansion from omnibus energy legislation.

The proposals to pay for the \$5-8 billion cost for new pipelines by assessing a surcharge, tariff or tax on electricity customers are unprecedented. Ordinarily, the natural gas producers would be expected to pay for this infrastructure expansion, if the expected revenue from natural gas sales would justify the cost.¹ The fact that this is not happening means industry players have determined the risk is not worth the reward. Why should the ratepayer shoulder risk when private industry is unwilling to?

Massachusetts is already heavily reliant on gas for electric power generation. Deepening this commitment will create liabilities for Massachusetts ratepayers. In 2014, 59% of our electricity was generated by natural gas and policymakers should be wary of increasing our state's dependence on a single, imported resource,² particularly since the natural gas market is notoriously volatile. A diversified energy portfolio guards ratepayers against price spikes or fluctuation.

¹<http://www.bizjournals.com/boston/print-edition/2015/01/23/viewpoint-more-natural-gas-pipelines-for-n-e-not.html>

²<http://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=MA>

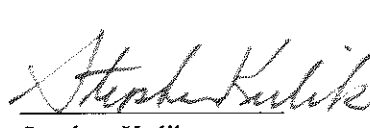
Gas pipeline expansion through our region also exposes the public to greater economic risk by enabling gas exports to international markets. A 2015 analysis by the U.S. Department of Energy determined that exposing U.S. customers to a volatile global gas market could raise domestic prices more than 7%.³

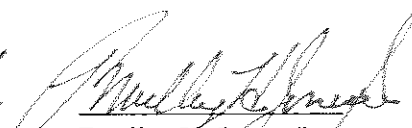
Proposed gas pipeline projects impact communities across our state as well as our ability to meet existing legislative mandates. These pipelines would run through private property—diminishing property values—as well as treasured public lands protected by Article 97 of the State Constitution. Moreover, expanding gas pipelines make it impossible for Massachusetts to meet our emissions reductions requirements under the Global Warming Solutions Act.

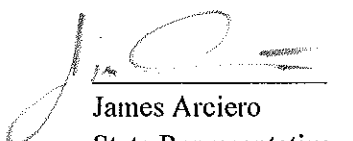
For all of these reasons, the proposed pipelines have been met with strong opposition from our constituents as well as state and local officials across the Commonwealth. In addition, New England's bipartisan congressional delegations have also expressed grave concerns about pipeline projects in our region.

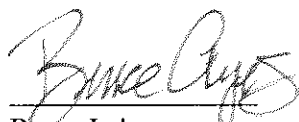
We look forward to working with you to support legislation that will create a diversified energy portfolio for our state, and reduce our over-reliance on natural gas. Substantial new pipeline infrastructure is inconsistent with our shared goals. Therefore, we ask you to ensure energy legislation does not commit ratepayers to bearing the cost and risk associated with financing new gas infrastructure. Doing so will create liabilities for the many legislators whose districts are impacted by one or more proposed fossil fuel projects, increase our state's over-reliance on gas, and saddle ratepayers with significant expenses for years to come. Thank you for your consideration.


Sincerely,



Stephen Kulik
State Representative
1st Franklin District

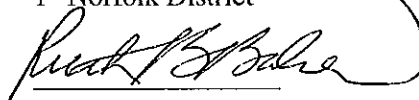

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.
State Representative
20th Middlesex District

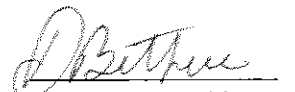

James Arciero
State Representative
2nd Middlesex District

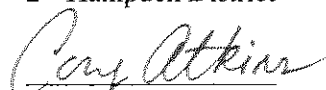

Bruce J. Ayers
State Representative
1st Norfolk District

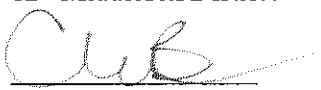

Jennifer E. Benson
State Representative
37th Middlesex District



Brian M. Ashe
State Representative
2nd Hampden District


Ruth B. Balsler
State Representative
12th Middlesex District

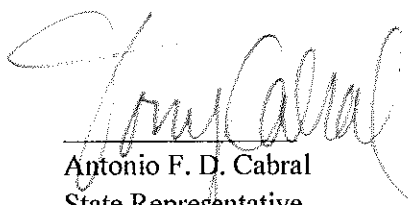

Donald R. Berthiaume
State Representative
5th Worcester District


Cory Atkins
State Representative
14th Middlesex District

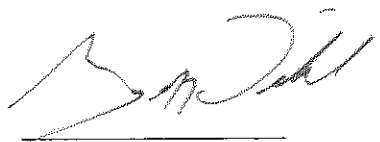

Christine P. Barber
State Representative
34th Middlesex District


Nicholas A. Boldyga
State Representative
3rd Hampden District

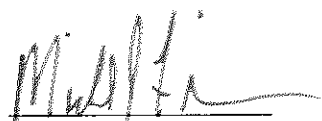
³ http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2015/12/f27/20151113_macro_impact_of_lng_exports_0.pdf



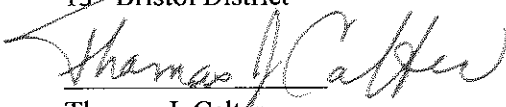
Antonio F. D. Cabral
State Representative
13th Bristol District



Geoff Diehl
State Representative
7th Plymouth District



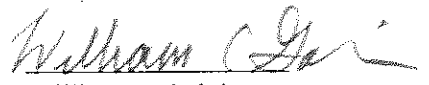
Michael J. Finn
State Representative
6th Hampden District



Thomas J. Calter
State Representative
12th Plymouth



Diana DiZoglio
State Representative
14th Essex District



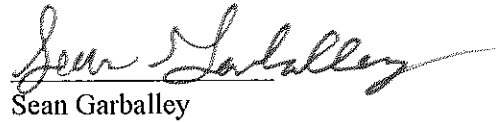
William C. Galvin
State Representative
6th Norfolk District



Kate D. Campanale
State Representative
17th Worcester District



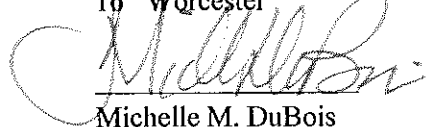
Daniel M. Donahue
State Representative
16th Worcester



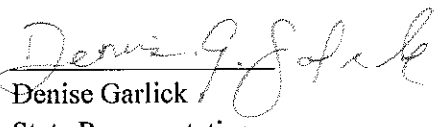
Sean Garballey
State Representative
23rd Middlesex District



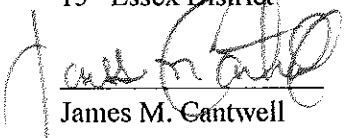
Linda Dean Campbell
State Representative
15th Essex District



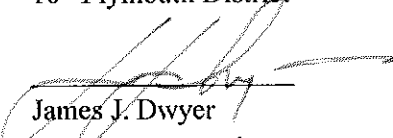
Michelle M. DuBois
State Representative
10th Plymouth District



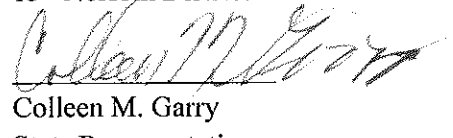
Denise Garlick
State Representative
13th Norfolk District



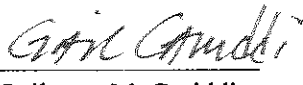
James M. Cantwell
State Representative
4th Plymouth District



James J. Dwyer
State Representative
30th Middlesex District



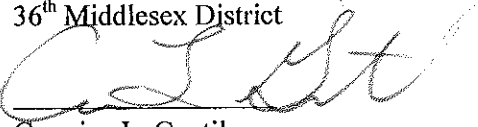
Colleen M. Garry
State Representative
36th Middlesex District



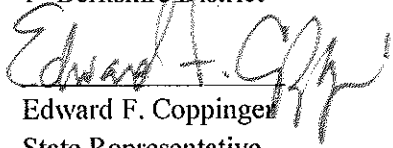
Gailanne M. Cariddi
State Representative
1st Berkshire District



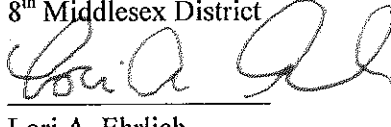
Carolyn C. Dykema
State Representative
8th Middlesex District



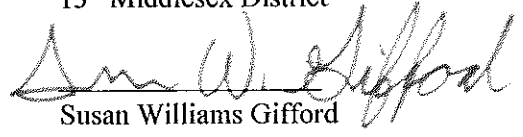
Carmine L. Gentile
State Representative
13th Middlesex District



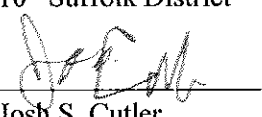
Edward F. Copping
State Representative
10th Suffolk District



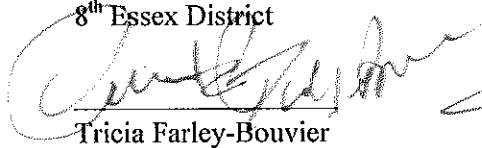
Lori A. Ehrlich
State Representative
8th Essex District



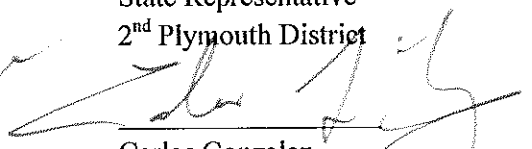
Susan Williams Gifford
State Representative
2nd Plymouth District




Josh S. Cutler
State Representative
6th Plymouth District



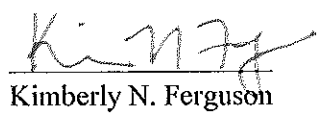
Tricia Farley-Bouvier
State Representative
3rd Berkshire District



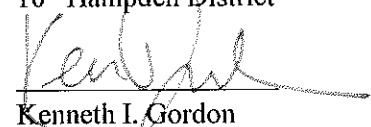
Carlos Gonzalez
State Representative
10th Hampden District



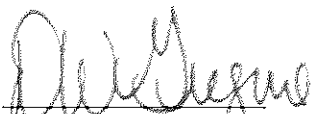
Marjorie C. Decker
State Representative
25th Middlesex District

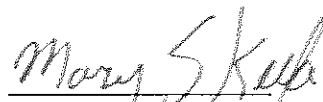


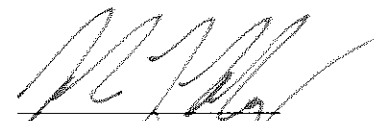
Kimberly N. Ferguson
State Representative
1st Worcester District

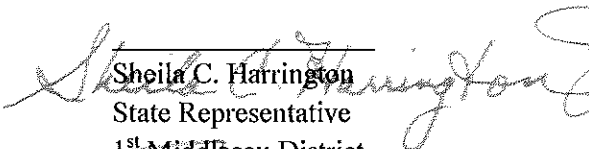


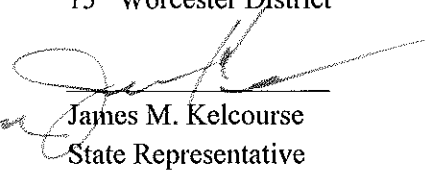
Kenneth I. Gordon
State Representative
21st Middlesex District

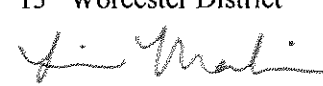

Danielle W. Gregoire
State Representative
4th Middlesex District



Mary S. Keefe
State Representative
15th Worcester District



John J. Mahoney
State Representative
13th Worcester District



Sheila C. Harrington
State Representative
1st Middlesex District

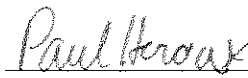

James M. Kelcourse
State Representative
1st Essex District

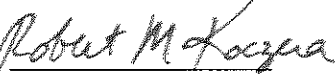

Elizabeth A. Malia
State Representative
11th Suffolk District

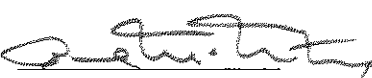

Jonathan Hecht
State Representative
29th Middlesex District



Kay Khan
State Representative
11th Middlesex District

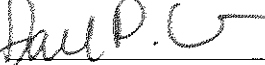

Paul W. Mark
State Representative
2nd Berkshire District



Paul R. Heroux
State Representative
2nd Bristol District



Robert M. Koczera
State Representative
11th Bristol District



Paul McMurty
State Representative
11th Norfolk District



Bradford R. Hill
State Representative
4th Essex District



David Paul Linsky
State Representative
5th Middlesex District



James R. Miceli
State Representative
19th Middlesex District



Kate Hogan
State Representative
3rd Middlesex District



Jay D. Livingstone
State Representative
8th Suffolk District



Leonard Mirra
State Representative
2nd Essex District



Steven S. Howitt
State Representative
4th Bristol District



Marc T. Lombardo
State Representative
22nd Middlesex District



Rady Mom
State Representative
18th Middlesex District



Louis L. Kaftka
State Representative
8th Norfolk District

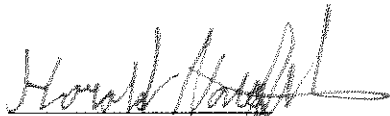

James J. Lyons, Jr.
State Representative
18th Essex District

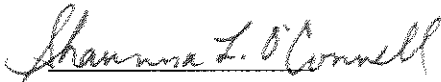

Frank A. Moran
State Representative
17th Essex District

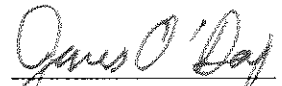

Jay R. Kaufman
State Representative
15th Middlesex District

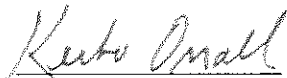

Adrian Madaro
State Representative
1st Suffolk District



James M. Murphy
State Representative
4th Norfolk District



Harold P. Naughton, Jr.
State Representative
12th Worcester District

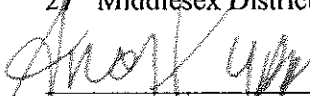

Shaunna L. O'Connell
State Representative
3rd Bristol District



James J. O'Day
State Representative
14th Worcester District

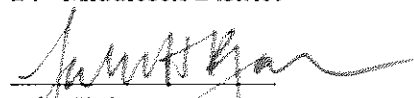

Keiko M. Orrall
State Representative
12th Bristol District

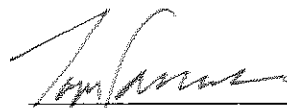

William Smitty Pignatelli
State Representative
4th Berkshire District



Denise Provost
State Representative
27th Middlesex District

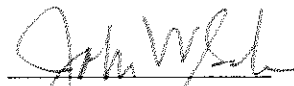

Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.
State Representative
12th Hampden District

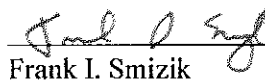

David M. Rogers
State Representative
24th Middlesex District

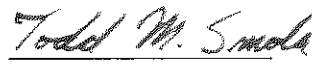

John H. Rogers
State Representative
12th Norfolk District



Tom Sannicandro
State Representative
7th Middlesex District



Paul A. Schmid, III
State Representative
8th Bristol District



John W. Scibak
State Representative
2nd Hampshire District

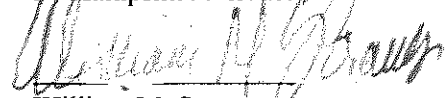

Frank I. Smizik
State Representative
15th Norfolk District



Todd M. Smola
State Representative
1st Hampden District

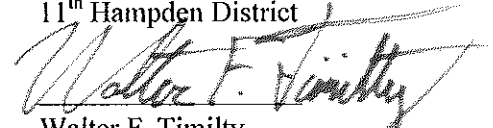

Theodore C. Speliotis
State Representative
13th Essex District

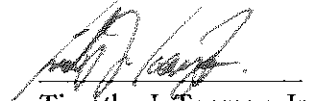

Thomas M. Stanley
State Representative
9th Middlesex District

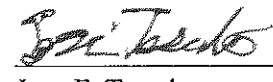

Ellen Story
State Representative
3rd Hampshire District

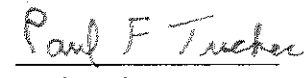

William M. Straus
State Representative
10th Bristol District



Benjamin Swan
State Representative
11th Hampden District

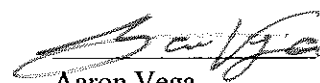

Walter F. Timilty
State Representative
7th Norfolk District

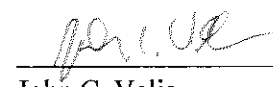

Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
State Representative
26th Middlesex District

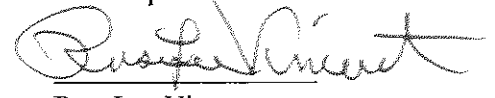

Jose F. Tosado
State Representative
9th Hampden District

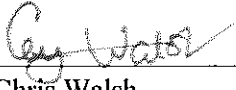

Paul F. Tucker
State Representative
7th Essex District


Steven Ultrino
State Representative
33rd Middlesex District

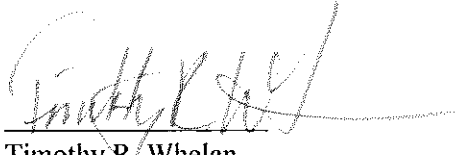

Aaron Vega
State Representative
5th Hampden District


John C. Velis
State Representative
4th Hampden District

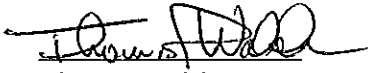

RosaLee Vincent
State Representative
16th Suffolk



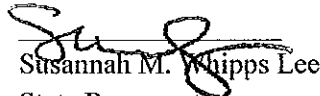
Chris Walsh
State Representative
6th Middlesex District



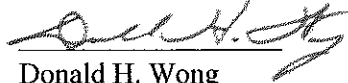
Timothy R. Whelan
State Representative
1st Barnstable District



Thomas Walsh
State Representative
12th Essex District



Susannah M. Whipps Lee
State Representative
2nd Franklin District



Donald H. Wong
State Representative
9th Essex District