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The Honorable Norman C. Bay
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Bay:

I am writing to you in the wake of the tragic Colonial Pipeline explosion in Shelby County, Alabama, which killed one pipeline worker and injured five others.

According to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, there have been more than 220 pipeline incidents in 2016. Understanding this, I urge you to delay permitting and construction of natural gas pipeline projects in Weymouth and West Roxbury, Massachusetts, until a comprehensive investigation of the Colonial incident is conducted and concluded, and all appropriate safety measures for pipeline projects have been adopted. The Alabama Forestry Commission reported that the forest fires resulting from the Colonial Pipeline explosion burned 31 acres of land. This tragedy would have been exponentially worse had it occurred in a densely populated urban or suburban neighborhood.

As you are aware, the Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) Project, specifically its West Roxbury Lateral segment, places a high pressure natural gas pipeline in dangerous proximity to an active quarry blast zone, in the middle of Boston's densely populated West Roxbury neighborhood. A separate project, the Algonquin Atlantic Bridge Project, proposes to build a natural gas compressor station in Weymouth, specifically North Weymouth, in a neighborhood where nearly 1000 households are within a half mile of the site. If an explosion similar to that in Alabama were to occur at either of these sites, the death toll would be catastrophic.

With the safety of these families foremost in mind, I again must urge that you delay both of these projects until we are certain that all safety measures are in place.

Sincerely,



STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress (MA-08)