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AND REFORM

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September 14, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As representative of the 8th Congressional District of Massachusetts, I strongly urge you to take immediate action and direct the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to suspend the opening of the Weymouth Compressor Station operated by Enbridge Inc. in the Town of Weymouth, Massachusetts. As evidenced by the recent leak of 265,000 standard cubic feet of natural gas from the facility, this misguided and dangerous project presents an imminent public safety threat to the residents of Weymouth and its surrounding communities and must be subject to extensive state and federal oversight before any continuation in station operations.

According to a notification letter from Enbridge to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Weymouth Compressor Station experienced a sump tank gasket failure on September 11, 2020 during piping and equipment testing and calibration and other commissioning activities. The letter details that "line pressure was venting to atmosphere at ground level" and that in order to "avoid an unsafe environment for station personnel," on-site employees manually triggered the Emergency Shutdown System (ESD). In public documents available on the Enbridge website, the company explains that the purpose of an ESD system "is to block the flow of gas into the station and simultaneously vent any residential gas into the station's piping." Enbridge reported the total volume of the ESD operating the Weymouth Compressor Station at 265,000 standard cubic feet and the total weight of Volatile Organic Compounds released at 35 pounds.

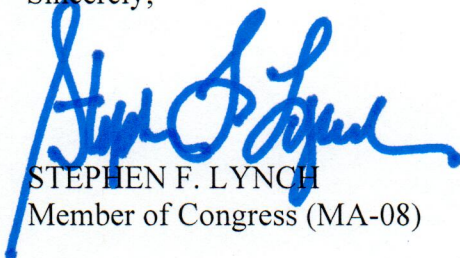
Clearly, the public safety threat stemming from a natural gas leak of this magnitude demands the immediate suspension of this project. To the great detriment of the residents of the Town of Weymouth and its surrounding communities, the 7,700-horsepower Weymouth Compressor Station is located adjacent to the Fore River Bridge, within a half-mile of nearly 1,000 households in densely-populated North Weymouth, and in close proximity to several schools, parks, and other high-traffic areas. The siting and proposed operation of this project have been the source of longstanding safety, health, and environmental concerns on the part of South Shore residents, community safety groups, non-profit organizations, and local, state, and federal elected officials. The September 11th gas leak in Weymouth has greatly exacerbated our concerns – particularly in the wake of the series of devastating natural gas

explosions that occurred in the Merrimack Valley in 2018 and considering the marked increase in pipeline safety incidents reported by PHMSA over the last two decades.

In Congress, I have introduced the ***Pipeline and Compressor Safety Verification Act***, legislation that would require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to revoke the certificate of public convenience and necessity issued for the Weymouth Compressor Station until state authorities, including the Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security for Massachusetts, the State Fire Marshal, and the Director of the Massachusetts Pipeline Safety Division, certify that the project will not pose a danger to surrounding residential communities and the general public. Given your jurisdiction over PHMSA, I strongly urge you to take corresponding action and immediately suspend the opening and operation of this project.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



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