

Stop the Williams NESE pipeline in NY Harbor Coalition
Over 200 New York State groups opposing fossil fuel development in our state

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

November 2, 2018

Dear Governor Cuomo,

The more than 200 national, state, and local organizations listed below urge you to direct the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Office of General Services to deny the necessary permits that would allow the construction of the Northeast Supply Enhancement Pipeline (NESE), a new fracked gas pipeline that would run through the waters off Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island.

We appeal to you as a leader who has pledged to uphold the Paris Climate Accord and to make New York a trailblazer in the development of sound energy policies.

The 23-mile pipeline proposed by Williams, an Oklahoma-based company with a poor safety record, would run from New Jersey to Rockaway, coming within a mile of Staten Island and continuing past Coney Island and other Brooklyn beaches to link up with two existing pipelines off the Rockaway shore.

We oppose this pipeline for several reasons:

The project poses immediate risks to human health and to marine life. Williams says it would take more than a year to build the pipeline, including periods where work would proceed around the clock. The project would churn up arsenic, lead, DDT, dioxins, and PCBs, endangering beachgoers and marine life.

The pipeline undercuts state and city promises on climate. New York has pledged to meet the goals of the Paris Climate Accords by shifting to renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and geothermal. You have made a commitment to getting half of New York's electricity from renewable sources by 2030 – just 13 years from now. New York is part of the nine-state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, which has just agreed to cut power plant carbon emissions by 30% by 2030. New York City has committed to cutting greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050 (compared with 2005). These are all positive steps toward taming climate chaos. But allowing the construction of a new pipeline to carry climate-busting fracked gas would undermine the effort to reduce the gas emissions that are warming the planet.

There's no need for the gas this pipeline will carry. There's no big new market for gas as a heating fuel. Even if all of New York City's boilers that now burn oil were to switch to gas, demand for gas would rise by only 6%, according to a report prepared for the Mayor's Office of

Long-Term Planning and Sustainability. And with the region building more solar and wind capacity, there's no reason to expect an uptick in demand for gas to generate electricity, either. Fracked gas is a particularly bad climate actor. Fracked gas is essentially methane, a greenhouse gas that captures 84 times as much heat as carbon dioxide in the initial 20 years after it's emitted. New York gas customers would foot the bill. Williams says the entire project would cost \$926.5 million to build. If demand for the additional gas fails to materialize, National Grid's customers in Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island would be forced to pay for the project through higher rates.

Building a new pipeline in the areas that were ravaged by Superstorm Sandy is simply unconscionable. On this sixth anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, and the recent visits you have made to Puerto Rico to see the effects of Hurricane Maria we face a horrifying reminder of the destructive force of storms in an age of warming temperatures. If we want to confront the threat of climate change, we must end our reliance on fossil fuels—and defeat new fossil fuel projects such as the Williams Pipeline. **Our future depends on it.**

Governor Cuomo, you can turn back this pipeline by denying the needed permits.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will, in all likelihood, approve this project. But the project can't move forward without several state permits. Williams would need the Department of Environmental Conservation to issue a water quality certificate and a protection of navigable waters permit. Williams would also need the state's Office of General Services to issue an easement for use of underwater land. Denying these permits would eliminate the risks this pipeline poses to the health, finances, and future of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,
The 210 Undersigned Organizations

350.org

350Brooklyn

350NYC

Adorers of the Blood of Christ

Advocates for Springfield, NY

All Our Energy

Alliance for a Green Economy

Aytzim: Ecological Judaism

Beacon Sloop Club

BeanCounters Unlimited

Big Reuse

Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition

Bronx Climate Justice North
Brooklyn Bridge CSA
Brooklyn For Peace
Brooklyn Grange
Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture
Broome Tioga Green Party
Campaign for Renewable Energy
Catskill Mountainkeeper
Carnegie Hill CSA
Cattaraugus-Chautauqua for Clean Water
Church Women United in New York State
Citizens' Climate Lobby
Citizens for Local Power
Citizens For Water
Climate Hawks Vote
Climate Justice Committee of CNY Solidarity Coalition
CNY Solidarity
Coalition Against the Pilgrim Pipeline
Coalition Against the Rockaway Pipeline
Coalition for a Livable West Side, Inc
Coalition for Healthy School Food
Coalition of Concerned Medical Professionals
Coalition to Protect New York
CODEPINK L.I. Women for Peace
Community Free Democrats
Complete It Cuomo
Compressor Free Franklin
Concerned Burlington Neighbors
Concerned Citizens of Otego
Concerned Residents of Oxford

Croton Climate Initiative
Sustainable Staten Island
CWA Local1102
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
Daughters of Wisdom -US Province
Deep Green Resistance New York City
Democracy for NYC
Dis-Organization
Dominican Sisters in Committed Collaboration
DOMINICAN SISTERS OF BLAUVELT
Dominican Sisters of Hope
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition
Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance
Earth Eden Sanctuary
Earthcare Working Group, NY Yearly Meeting (Quaker)
EldersClimateAction
Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking
Empire State Progressives
Endangered Species Coalition
Environmental Justice Task Force
Environmental Justice Task Force of WNY Peace Center
Falconworks Theater Company
Feeding Westchester
Food & Water Watch
Fossil Free Tompkins
Gas Free Seneca
Gotham Whale
Grassroots Action NY
Grassroots Environmental Education

Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition
Green Education and Legal Fund
Green Party of Brooklyn
Green Sanctuary Committee, Community Church of NY, UU
Green Valley Tack
Greene Rural Action Bloc, a chapter of NYPAN
Greenpeace
Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Association
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
iEat Green, LLC
Interfaith Climate Justice Action Network
IWW EUC
Jewish Climate Action Network NYC
Judson Memorial Church
Kezialain Farm
Lake House Graphics
LI Clean Air Water & Soil, LTD
Little Lakes Sustainability Network
Long Island Activists
Lower East Side Ecology Center
Maryknoll Sisters Eastern Region
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic
Medical Mission Sisters
Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement
Missioner
MK Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence
Mohawk valley keeper
Mothers Out Front
N Y Buddhist Climate Action Network
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club, Inc.

National Nurses United
New Economy Project
New Paltz Climate Action Coalition
New York Climate Action
New York Communities for Change (NYCC)
New York Friends in Unity with Nature (committee of the Religious Society of Friends)
New York Interfaith Power & Light
New York Progressive Action Network
New York Society for Ethical Culture
New York's Second District Democrats
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)
North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island, Inc.
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY)
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
NY Buddhist Climate Action Network
NY4Whales
NYC Friends of Clearwater
NYC H2O
NYCD16 Indivisible Environment Committee
NYCD16-Indivisible
NYC-DSA Ecosocialist Working Group
NYPIRG
NYU Divest for Climate Justice
Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation, Sisters of Charity of New York
oikos NYC
Olive Defense Against Fracking
On Belay Business Advisors Inc
Orange Residents Against Pilgrim Pipelines.
Otsego 2000
Pachamama Alliance of Rochester

Park Slope Neighbors
PAUSE - People of Albany United for Safe Energy
Pax Christi International
Peace Action New York State
People for a Healthy Environment
People Not Pipelines
People's Climate Movement NY
Persist 81
Physicians for Social Responsibility/New York
Progressive Action of Lower Manhattan - NYPAN
Protect the Adirondacks
Protecting Our Waters
Rainforest Relief
Regional Farm and Food Project
RENewYorkCity
Resist Spectra
Hudson Riverkeeper
Rochester Defense Against Fracking
Rochester People's Climate Coalition
Rockaway Waterfront Alliance
Rockland Citizen's Action Network
Safe Energy Rights Group, Inc.
Sane Energy Project
Sanford-Oquaga Area Concerned Citizens (S-OACC)
SAPE
Sullivan County Residents Against Millennium
Seeding Sovereignty
Sea Cliff Farmers Market
Seneca Lake Guardian, A Waterkeeper Alliance Affiliate
Shaleshock of Central New York

Shut Down Indian Point Now
Sierra Club NYC Group
Sisters of Charity Federation
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, New Windsor, NY
Sixth Street Community Center
Slow Food
Slow Food North Shore
Sludge Stoppers
South Asian Fund For Education, Scholarship and Training (SAFEST)
Staten Island 4 Change
Stephen Wise Free Synagogue
Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline
Strike Anywhere Performance Ensemble
Surfrider Foundation, NYC Chapter
Sunnyside CSA
Surfrider Foundation NYC
Sustainable Tompkins
Sustainable Warwick
Sustainable Warwick Infrastructure Committee
Syracuse Community Choir
Syracuse Peace Council
System Change Not Climate Change
The Banner, weekly newsletter
The Cleaver Co. & The Green Table
The Climate Mobilization NYC
The First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn
The Grail Movement
The Nature Place Day Camp
The New Sanctuary Coalition
The Sustainable Restaurant Corps

Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue
Three Parks Independent Democrats
Trade Justice New York Metro
Trade Unionists in Solidarity with Colombia
UNA Brooklyn
United for Action
Uptown Progressive Action, a NYPAN chapter
UU Catskills
Weather Medic Inc
WESPAC Foundation, Inc
West 80s Neighborhood Association
West Branch Conservation Association
West Dryden Residents Against the Pipeline
West End Synagogue
Western NY Drilling Defense
Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources
World Beyond War
Zen Mountain Monastery

For further information, please contact:

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