



September 11, 2014

Hon. Daniel P Malloy  
Governor of Connecticut  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Hon. Margaret Wood Hassan  
Governor of New Hampshire  
Office of the Governor  
State House  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Hon. Paul R. LePage  
Governor of Maine  
Office of the Governor  
#1 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0001

Hon. Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor of Rhode Island  
Office of the Governor  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Hon. Peter Shumlin  
Governor of Vermont  
Executive Office of the Governor  
109 State Street, Pavilion  
Montpelier, VT 05609

Dear Governors:

I am writing on behalf of America's Natural Gas Alliance and its member companies to express our support for your continued efforts to reduce energy costs in your respective states through the expansion of natural gas infrastructure in New England.

Representing North America's leading independent natural gas exploration and production companies, ANGA works with industry, government and customer stakeholders to promote increased demand for and availability of our nation's abundant natural gas resources for a cleaner and more secure energy future. The collective natural gas production of the ANGA member companies is approximately eight trillion cubic feet per year, which represents one third of the total annual U.S. natural gas supply.

Your respective administrations' recent efforts to keep a regional approach on track, even as Massachusetts has expressed reservations, is essential to ensuring that all residents in the region, can get access to domestically produced natural gas.

Natural gas plays an integral role in revitalizing our nation's economy by providing affordable and stable energy to industrial and residential consumers alike. Increased utilization of this clean, abundant and domestic energy resource in power generation and transportation will dramatically accelerate U.S. efforts to reduce air pollution.

Natural gas provides thousands of jobs to New Englanders engaged in energy production, transmission, transportation, and other sectors. It also offers significant environmental benefits

over coal, emitting far less carbon dioxide when used for power generation. Without the region's gas plants, many of which have converted from or replaced coal, New England's environment would not be as clean as it is today.

ANGA was encouraged by the announcement last December of your commitment to a plan that would secure an additional supply of natural gas to serve existing generation in New England. Representing producers of domestic natural gas, ANGA strongly supports initiatives that will enable infrastructure investment to allow the region to fully realize the advantages of natural gas for power generation. ANGA strongly supports the multi-state approach to this regional challenge.

To this end, ANGA submitted comments to New England States Committee on Energy (NESCOE) earlier this summer promoting the procurement and construction of new pipeline capacity in New England. We would like to reiterate that despite claims to the contrary, New England is not overly reliant on natural gas-fired generation. It is overly reliant on inadequately piped natural gas-fired generation. Pipeline expansion would remedy these infrastructure constraints to make the existing fleet more reliable and less economically volatile, enabling the region to take advantage of abundant, economically stable natural gas supplies only a few hundred miles away.


We submit that the current mismatch of pipeline capacity with the energy needs of the generation fleet is an impediment to New England's ability to capitalize on two major assets: a large gas-fired generation fleet already in service; and an enormous and growing natural gas supply for that fleet in unprecedented proximity to the region. Our members are committed to the safe and continued responsible development of America's natural gas resource. We believe that time is of the essence, and that, as evidenced by last winter's congestion-induced price run-ups, further studies to establish the need for action are unnecessary. ANGA has therefore filed additional comments (attached) with NESCOE, urging the immediate release of a solicitation for real infrastructure proposals, so that the process can meet the goal you established earlier this year of an additional 1 Bcf/day of pipeline capacity to be in place by the winter of 2017-2018.

ANGA would like to encourage you and your partners in NESCOE to remain steadfast in identifying opportunities to reduce constraints and to not lose sight of the overall objective when issues of local concern arise regarding one specific project or another. The FERC review process will afford every project the opportunity to go through a thorough public vetting process.

We as an industry always welcome the opportunity to discuss public policy initiatives, including regulation of our activities. The natural gas community is committed to being good stewards of the air, land and water in communities in which we operate and to ensuring that the benefits we provide do not come as a tradeoff for the health of the environment. We support all reasonable initiatives that aim to serve the same purpose.

ANGA stands ready to support you and your administration as you seek to find ways to achieve the goals outlined by NESCOE earlier this year.

Sincerely,

  
Paul Hartman  
Regional Director, State Affairs