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September 18, 2018

The Honorable Kevin J. McIntyre
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman McIntyre:

As representative of the 8th Congressional District of Massachusetts, I am writing to respectfully request that you direct the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and any other appropriate agencies within the Department of Transportation to conduct a stem-to-stern safety review of the proposed construction of a natural gas compressor station in the Town of Weymouth. As you know, the Weymouth Compressor Station is part of the Atlantic Bridge Project, which received a conditional certificate of approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in January 2017.

The series of hazardous and fatal natural gas fires and explosions that occurred in Northeastern Massachusetts and Western Pennsylvania last week underscored the grave threat to public safety posed by the operation of volatile natural gas pipelines in direct proximity to residential communities. On September 10th, residents of Center Township, Pennsylvania were forced to evacuate their homes following a natural gas pipeline explosion that sent flames shooting 150 feet in the air, destroyed one house, and collapsed several high-voltage power lines and electrical towers. Many evacuees required medical assistance. Only two days later, thousands of residents in the City of Lawrence, the Town of Andover, the Town of North Andover, and surrounding communities in the Merrimack Valley Region were forced to evacuate their homes amid fires, explosions, and gas odors reportedly related to an over-pressurized natural gas line. This devastating incident, which led Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker to declare a State of Emergency, affected an estimated 8,600 homes and businesses in the area, destroyed as many as 80 buildings, and resulted in at least one fatality. It also caused fire-related, traumatic blast, and other injuries to over 25 residents. On September 15th, a new and unrelated natural gas leak was detected and reported in Lawrence.

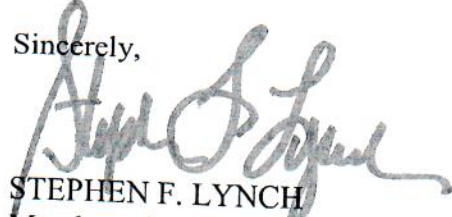
As you know, these are not isolated incidents. According to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration ("PHMSA"), last year witnessed an estimated 650 reported pipeline incidents resulting in 20 fatalities and injuries to 35 individuals. In 2018, PHMSA reports that pipeline incidents have already led to at least three fatalities and injuries to 33 individuals. According to the agency, these incidents can involve the release of highly-volatile liquids, the release of liquids that cause unintentional fires or explosions, and other hazardous events.

Clearly, public safety demands a stem-to-stern public safety review of pending pipeline projects, including the planned Weymouth Compressor Station, that are operating in or near residential communities. Regrettably, Weymouth project would install a 7,700-horsepower natural gas compressor station within a

half mile of nearly 1,000 households in North Weymouth as well as local schools, parks, and other community facilities.

In order to better safeguard our local communities against the devastating impact of a pipeline safety emergency, I again respectfully urge you to initiate a comprehensive safety review of this ill-advised pipeline project. Thank you in advance for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



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