

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 19, 2004

The Honorable Patrick Henry Wood, III
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Wood:

We write to express our strong objection to the proposed Weaver's Cove LNG project. After reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Docket Nos. CP04-36-000 and CP04-000) and the concerns of other federal agencies, our local officials, and community members, we oppose the project because of its harmful environmental, safety and economic impacts on the City of Fall River and the surrounding area.

The Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Interior, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries have all raised legitimate environmental problems with the dredging of the Taunton River and the disposal of potentially contaminated material. Each of these agencies agree that the dredging of 2.6 million cubic yards of material will harm both our recovering fisheries and our current healthy shellfish resources—a consequence we cannot accept.

We also share the strong concerns of public safety officials in Fall River and the surrounding area about the health and safety issues. The LNG facilities would be located in a very densely populated area, with almost 2,000 homes and over 9,000 residences within a one-mile radius. Although the DEIS claims safety risks are manageable, it ignores the availability of modern technologies that make the practice of siting LNG facilities in densely populated areas a thing of the past.

We are also concerned about the safety impact of closing the Pell and Mount Hope Bridges in Rhode Island and the Brightman Street and Braga Bridges in Massachusetts whenever an LNG tanker makes a delivery. Temporary closings of these bridges could cause delays for ambulances responding in emergency situations—when minutes may actually make the difference between life or death. It is important to respect the expertise of local first responders who are convinced that an LNG facility in this location would jeopardize safety.


Lastly, we have grave concerns about the economic impact, especially the costs of security measures to federal, state and local governments. In the DEIS, FERC estimates that security costs are \$80,000 per shipment of LNG, with 47 percent of the costs paid by

local and state governments. If shipments arrive once a week, the estimated cost for security measures will be \$4 million a year, which exceeds the estimated \$3 million dollars in tax benefits to the City of Fall River and unfairly burdens the City and the State of Massachusetts with almost half of the security costs.

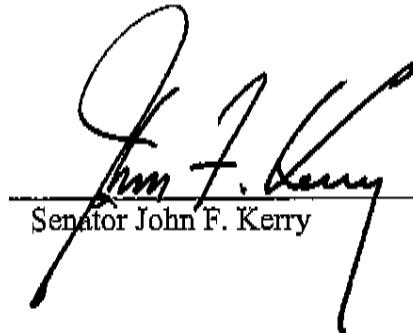
Mayor Ed Lambert of Fall River and state planners have done an outstanding job developing an alternative economic plan that could create a hotel and an office park or conference center on the proposed 73 acre site. It is clear that the LNG facility is consistent with the city's plan for redevelopment of the waterfront and would prevent further economic investment in the immediate area.

We do not doubt the importance of LNG, but as a result of the many serious objections that have been raised against this project, it should not go forward, and we urge the Commission to oppose it.

Sincerely,



Senator Edward M. Kennedy



Senator John F. Kerry