

*Clean Ocean Action • Alliance for a Living Ocean • American Littoral Society
Bayshore Regional Watershed Council • Citizens for Oceanfront Preservation
Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island • Concerned Citizens of Montauk
Delaware Riverkeeper Network • Edison Wetlands Association • Environment New Jersey
Fishermen's Dock Cooperative • Food and Water Watch • Hackensack Riverkeeper
Jersey Coast Anglers Association • League of Women Voters of New Jersey
Legislator Denenberg's Taskforce against LNG Island • Lund's Fisheries, Inc. • Miami2Maine
Natural Resources Protective Association • New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs
New Jersey Environmental Federation • New Jersey Highlands Coalition
New York Whale and Dolphin Action League
North and Central Merrick Civic Association • Paddleout.org • Raritan Riverkeeper
Sierra Club Long Island Group • South Shore Audubon Society
Surfers Environmental Alliance • Surfrider Foundation Jersey Shore Chapter • WATERSPIRIT*

David Matsuda, Administrator
Maritime Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 3, 2012

Dear Administrator Matsuda:

The below organizations, which represent millions of citizens who depend on clean New York and New Jersey oceans and coasts, ask you to take immediate action to formally close, deny, and end the application process for the Liberty Natural Gas LNG Deepwater Port ("Liberty LNG").

Over one year ago, the Governor of New Jersey, the Honorable Chris Christie, sent your office a letter disapproving of the project under the authority granted to him by the Deepwater Port Act (and within the timeframe suggested by the advice of your agency's lawyers). This disapproval came on the heels of a thorough review, over the course of several months, by the Governor, his staff and numerous agencies within the government of the State of New Jersey. The Governor's position was unequivocal: there is to be no LNG facility off the coast of New Jersey.

For reasons not publicly known, your agency has failed to honor the Governor's veto for more than a year. We were stunned to learn that your office actually sent a letter to Liberty LNG advising the applicant that the Maritime Administration (MARAD) considered the Governor's action not to be legally significant. MARAD then failed to inform the Governor of this extraordinary position for several months. Several more months passed before MARAD made this decision public. We have also learned that MARAD continued to work behind closed doors in furtherance of this vetoed application.

Recently, a revised application for the Liberty LNG project was posted on the public docket. However, the revised application still describes the same project submitted on November 17, 2010 – an LNG port in the New York Bight. This vetoed application remains

opposed by a large coalition with scores of businesses, fishing, recreation, and environmental interests across the region - and the millions of citizens they represent. The project is also opposed by someone who has the power to officially disapprove of any license: the Governor of New Jersey. Indeed, he has already done so.

LNG facilities have no place in our ocean – they are unneeded, harmful, and clearly not in the public interest of the citizens of the United States. Contrary to our country’s long held objective to end our dependence on foreign energy, LNG facilities around the country have become swift, effective, and efficient export conduits for draining our domestic natural gas supply for shipment overseas. LNG exports will escalate destructive shale gas drilling and hydraulic-fracturing practices which pollute water, air, and land.

The undersigned organizations are opposed to offshore LNG facilities, in any and all forms (including this Liberty LNG application), and so is the Governor of the State of New Jersey. Compliance with the law requires that you accept the Governor’s clear and oft-repeated position opposing LNG facilities off the coast of New Jersey and immediately, and finally, deny the application of this project.

Sincerely,

Cindy Zipf
Executive Director
Clean Ocean Action

Maya K. van Rossum
Delaware Riverkeeper
Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Christopher D. Huch Jr.
Executive Director
Alliance for a Living Ocean

Robert Spiegel
Executive Director
Edison Wetlands Association

Tim Dillingham
Executive Director
American Littoral Society

Ray Ellmer
Concerned Civic Leader
Long Beach, New York

Joe Reynolds
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Bayshore Regional Watershed Council

Doug O'Malley
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Environment New Jersey

Joyce Grant
Citizens for Oceanfront Preservation

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Fishermen’s Dock Cooperative

Arthur H. Kopelman, Ph. D.
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**Coastal Research and Education Society of
Long Island**

Jim Walsh
Eastern Regional Director
Food and Water Watch

Rav Freidel
Concerned Citizens of Montauk

Bill Sheehan
Riverkeeper
Hackensack Riverkeeper

Joe Puntasecca
President
Jersey Coast Anglers Association

Toni Zimmer
President
League of Women Voters of New Jersey

Beverly Visconti, Claudia Borecky
Co-Chairs
**Legislator Denenberg's Taskforce Against
the LNG Island**

Jeff Reichle
President
Lund's Fisheries, Inc.

Margo Pellegrino
Miami2Maine

James Scarcella
Trustee
Natural Resources Protective Association

Glenn Arthur
Chairman
New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs

David Pringle
Campaign Director
New Jersey Environmental Federation

Julia Somers
Executive Director
New Jersey Highlands Coalition

Taffy Williams
**New York Whale and Dolphin Action
League**

Claudia Borecky
President
**North and Central Merrick Civic
Association**

Scott Thompson
Paddleout.org

Bill Schultz
Riverkeeper
Raritan Riverkeeper

Ann I. Aurelio
Vice Chair
Sierra Club Long Island Group

Jim Brown
President
South Shore Audubon Society

Richard Lee
East Coast Director
Surfers Environmental Alliance

Joe Woerner
Chair
**Surfrider Foundation - Jersey Shore
Chapter**

Suzanne Golas, csjp
Director
WATERSPIRIT

cc: **Open Letter**
New Jersey Governor Christie
New York Governor Cuomo
Secretary of Transportation LaHood
MARAD Deepwater Port Licensing Program Director Fields
USCG Deepwater Ports Standards Division Commander Prescott
Selected Congressional Delegation Members, New York and New Jersey