

Participating Organizations

Albance for a Living Ocean
American Littoral Society
Arthur Kill Coalition
Asbury Park Fishing Club
Atlantic Highlands Arts Council
Bayshore Regional Watershed Council
Bayside Saltwater Flyfishers
Belmont Seafood Co-op
Belmar Fishing Club
Beneath The Sea
Bergen Save the Watershed Action Network
Berkley Shores Homeowners Civic Association
Cape May Environmental Commission
Central Jersey Anglers
Citizens Conservation Council of Ocean County
Clean Air Campaign, NY
Clean Water Action
Coalition Against Toxics
Coalition for Peace & Justice/Unplug 800
Coastal Jersey Parrot Head Club
Communication Workers of America, Local 1075
Concerned Businesses of COA
Concerned Citizens of Berne/Clinton
Concerned Citizens of COA
Concerned Citizens of Montauk
Eastern Monmouth Chamber of Commerce
Environment NJ
Fishermen's Conservation Association, NJ Chapter
Fishermen's Conservation Association, NY Chapter
Fishermen's Dock Cooperative, Pt. Pleasant
Food and Water Watch, NJ
Friends of Island Beach State Park
Friends of Liberty State Park, NJ
Friends of the Boardwalk, NY
Garden Club of Absecon
Garden Club of Bay Head and Mantoloking/Seaweeders
Garden Club of Belle/Bayberry
Garden Club of Englewood
Garden Club of Fair Haven
Garden Club of Long Beach Island
Garden Club of RFD Middletown
Garden Club of Morristown
Garden Club of Navesink
Garden Club of New Jersey
Garden Club of New Vernon
Garden Club of Oceanport
Garden Club of Princeton
Garden Club of Ridgewood
Garden Club of Rumson
Garden Club of Sea Girt/Holly
Garden Club of Short Hills
Garden Club of Shrewsbury
Garden Club of Spring Lake
Garden Club of Terra Nova
Garden Club of Washington Valley
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
Green Party of Monmouth County
Green Party of New Jersey
Highlands Business Partnership
Hudson River Fishermen's Association
Jersey Shore Captains Association
Jersey Shore Parrot Head Club
Jersey Shore Partnership
Junior League of Monmouth County
Keypoint Environmental Commission
Kivuaia Club of Shadow Lake Village
Leonardo Party & Pleasure Boat Association
Mantoloking Environmental Commission
Marine Trades Association of NJ
Monmouth Conservation Foundation
Monmouth County Association of Realtors
Monmouth County Audubon Society
National Coalition for Marine Conservation
Natural Resources Protective Association, NY
NJ Beach Buggy Association
NJ Environmental Lobby
NJ Friends of Clearwater
NJ Marine Education Association
Nottingham Hunting & Fishing Club, NJ
NYC Sea Gyppies
NY Marine Education Association
NY/NJ Baykeeper
Ocean Wreck Divers, NJ
PaddleOut.org
Picatinny Saltwater Sportsman Club
Raritan Riverkeeper
Religious on Water
Rotary Club of Point Pleasant
Rotary District #1940—Interact
Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County
Sandy Hook Bay Anglers
Save Barnegat Bay
Save the Bay, NJ
SEAS Monmouth
Shark Research Institute
Shark River Cleanup Coalition
Shark River Surf Anglers
Sierra Club, NJ Shore Chapter
Sisters of Charity, Mani Stella
South Monmouth Board of Realtors
Staten Island Tuna Club
Strathmore Fishing & Environmental Club
Sunrise Rod & Gun Club
Surfers' Environmental Alliance
Surfrider Foundation, Jersey Shore Chapter
Surfrider Foundation, South Jersey Chapter
TACKLE MA
Umatilla Universalist Congregation/Monmouth, Calif.
United Boatmen of NY/NJ
Viking Village
WATERSPIRIT
Women's Club of Brick Township
Women's Club of Keypoint
Women's Club of Long Branch
Women's Club of Merchantville
Women's Club of Spring Lake
Zen Society, NJ



Ocean Advocacy
Since 1984

Clean Ocean Action

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Dear Governor Christie,

Your long awaited opportunity to veto the Liberty Natural Gas project, Port Ambrose, is at hand.

The Deepwater Port Act (33 U.S.C. § 1508) prohibits the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) from issuing a license for a deepwater port without the approval of the Governor of each adjacent coastal state. According to MARAD, this veto cannot be issued until the final public hearing is held. For Port Ambrose, that final hearing took place on Thursday, November 5, 2015 in Eatontown, New Jersey. Today, Friday, November 6, your veto window opens.

We trust that you will use this long awaited day to veto Port Ambrose. We stood together on the Jersey Shore on Earth Day in 2010 with students, ocean advocates and press, as you vowed that, "as long as I am Governor I will oppose any application for any type of liquefied natural gas project."¹

At that time there were **three** proposals to build LNG ports off our coast: "Safe Harbor" (an island proposed by Atlantic Sea Island Group), "Blue Ocean Energy" (proposed by ExxonMobil), and "Port Liberty" (Liberty Natural Gas' original name for Port Ambrose).

Two of the three companies withdrew their proposals; Liberty Natural Gas, however, rejected your position, and pursued their plans.

On February 8, 2011, true to your word, you vetoed Port Liberty over the project's impacts to coastal economies, fisheries, water quality, renewable energy projects, and security.² Over a year later, after significant lobbying of the federal government by Liberty Natural Gas, the company's arrogance resurfaced when they asked for your support of an alternate location in a revised amended application. Your Attorney General confirmed in March 2012 that your veto of the Port covered all of Liberty's proposed port locations, stating that "Governor Christie's veto remained in effect, as to both the original and revised applications."³

Shockingly, despite your office's admonition, Liberty Natural Gas persisted.

¹ Governor Christie's Earth Day Address, Surfrider Beach Club, Sea Bright NJ. Apr. 22, 2010

² Note: From Office of the Governor of New Jersey Letter to Mr. David T. Matsuda, Maritime Administrator, Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. signed by Governor Chris Christie. Feb. 8, 2011

³ Note: From Office of the Attorney General of New Jersey Letter to Ms. Yvette M. Fields, Director, Office of Deepwater ports and Offshore Activities, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration. Signed by Jeffrey S. Chiesa, Attorney General of N.J. Mar. 20, 2012.



Soon after the March 2012 reaffirmation of your veto, Liberty Natural Gas withdrew its original application, and in September 2012, resubmitted its proposal, locating the proposed port just a few miles further east. This “new” application basically included the same proposed locations, designs, and impacts as the original application.

The one significant change – to move the port a few miles east – seems to have been calculated to avoid your office’s jurisdiction. The newly renamed proposal, Port Ambrose, was located 15.1 miles from New Jersey. Under the federal Deepwater Port Act, veto authority is only granted to the Governor of a state within 15 miles of a proposed port.⁴ Thus, after your initial veto, and after your reaffirmed veto, Liberty tried to dodge your authority – going so far as to **not** send its “new” application materials to New Jersey DEP.

Fortunately, that backfired. As affirmed by MARAD, at sea, nautical miles are used to calculate distance, and 15.1 miles (on land) translate to about 13 nautical miles (at sea), leaving Port Ambrose – just like Port Liberty – squarely within your jurisdiction.⁵

The original Port Liberty - withdrawn based on your veto - is nearly identical in location, scope, impact, danger, and risk as the Port Ambrose application in front of you today. One major difference is how far we have come as a state in the intervening years; our fisheries are more robust, our offshore renewable energy targets are within reach, and our energy policies have been written – all without Port Ambrose.

Governor Christie, even with the federal agencies restricting your opportunity to veto until the very last stage of the process, your opposition to offshore LNG facilities has never wavered.

We have all waited for this day for several years. Today, Friday, November 6, 2015 – when the federal agencies in charge of licensing Port Ambrose will officially accept your comments – we look forward to your swift action vetoing this LNG Port one final time.

Sincerely,

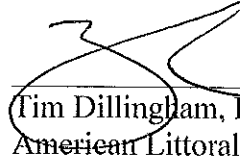
/s/

⁴ See The Deepwater Port Act (33 U.S.C. § 1508).

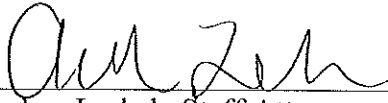
⁵ See MARAD policy published at 78 CFR 25349 concerning nautical miles (issued in the Federal Register Volume 78, Issue 83 (April 30, 2013)).



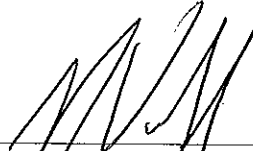
Cindy Zipf, Executive Director
Clean Ocean Action



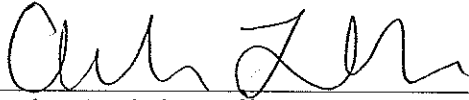
Tim Dillingham, Executive Director
American Littoral Society



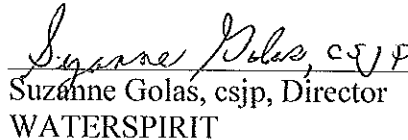
Andrea Leshak, Staff Attorney
NY/NJ Baykeeper



Jim Walsh, New Jersey Director
Food & Water Watch




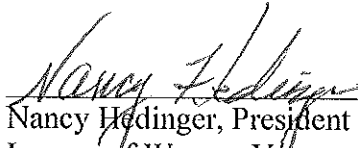
Andrea Leshak, Staff Attorney
Hackensack Riverkeeper



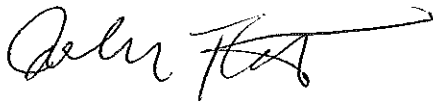
Suzanne Golas, csjp, Director
WATERSPIRIT



Tim Burden, President 
New Jersey Beach Buggy Association



Nancy Hedinger, President
League of Women Voters of New Jersey



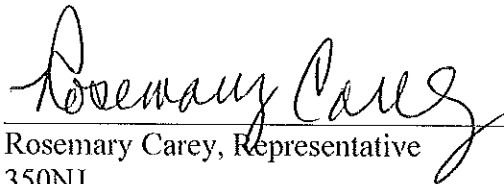
John Toth, Representative
New Jersey Outdoor Alliance



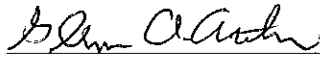
Amy Goldsmith, New Jersey State Director
Clean Water Action



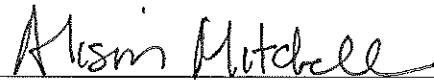
John Toth, Representative
Jersey Coast Anglers Association




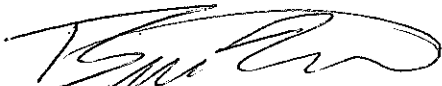
Rosemary Carey, Representative
350NJ



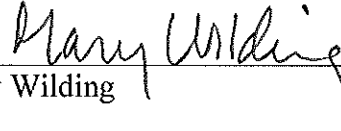
Glenn A. Arthur, Chairman
New Jersey Council of Dive Clubs



Alison E. Mitchell, Director of Policy
New Jersey Conservation Foundation 



Bill Williams, Co-chair
Jersey Shore Chapter, Surfrider Foundation



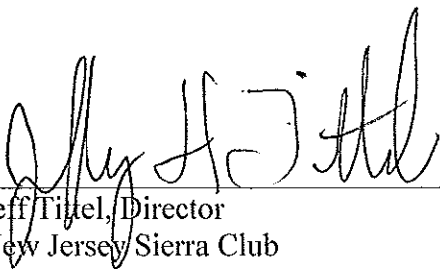
Mary Wilding 



Christine O'Rourke, Co-founder
QUENCH



Doug O'Malley, Director
Environment New Jersey



Jeff Titel, Director
New Jersey Sierra Club



Kyle Gronostajski, Executive Director
Alliance for a Living Ocean