



NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ
Member of Congress



Julia Salazar
New York State Senator
18th District



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY
MARITZA DAVILA
Assemblywoman 53rd District



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
JENNIFER GUTIÉRREZ
COUNCIL MEMBER, 34-DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

April 19, 2022

Dear Mayor Adams,

We appreciate you standing with New Yorkers to oppose National Grid’s North Brooklyn Pipeline. We want to bring to your attention a liquefied natural gas (“LNG”) trucking project connected to this wrongful expansion that threatens the safety of constituents in Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, Long Island, and Westchester. Since 2013, National Grid has unsuccessfully sought to obtain a general variance from the City of New York to truck LNG through City streets—an activity that is currently prohibited by the Fire Code due to the catastrophic dangers of a potential accident or explosion. In December 2020, after multiple failed attempts to obtain a general LNG trucking variance, National Grid nevertheless decided to proceed with construction of a \$27 million LNG Truck Load/Unload Station (“LNG Trucking Station”) at its Greenpoint facility. The Company now apparently plans to seek LNG trucking variances from the City on an “emergency,” case-by-case basis. Unlike a general variance application, “emergency” variance applications would evade any form of environmental review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”). We are extremely concerned about the prospect of such an end-run around SEQRA, which would enable National Grid to engage in a hazardous, prohibited activity with no environmental review whatsoever.

We ask that you direct the City of New York to announce that it will never grant an “emergency” variance allowing National Grid to truck dangerous LNG on our streets for the following reasons:

- LNG trucking is currently illegal in NYC because it creates acute public safety risks.
- National Grid’s proposed trucking route goes through densely populated areas on highly trafficked highways putting tens of thousands of people at risk.
- LNG explodes when spilled into water and, if spilled on the ground, can turn into rapidly expanding, odorless clouds that can flash-freeze human flesh and asphyxiate individuals by displacing oxygen.
- If ignited at the source, LNG vapors can turn into flaming “pool fires” that burn hotter than other fuels and cannot be extinguished.
- National Grid wants to raise monthly bills for customers in Brooklyn, southeast Queens, and Staten Island to pay for the \$27 million LNG Trucking Station, even though building new fracked gas infrastructure violates city and state climate laws.

- If we were to allow LNG trucks on our streets in dire weather conditions (e.g., a hurricane) that could presumably constitute the “emergency” basis, the consequences could be catastrophic.

National Grid’s Greenpoint LNG facility is located in and near Environmental Justice communities that have been polluted by the fossil fuel industry for decades. Local NYCHA residents at Cooper Park Houses have sued to stop construction of the LNG Trucking Station.

According to National Grid, construction of the LNG Trucking Station was scheduled to be completed in March. At any time now, National Grid could seek an “emergency” variance to recover the costs of this multimillion dollar project—plus a profit—from ratepayers. The “usefulness” of the station will come into question, and the City must choose a side: can National Grid truck LNG into the five boroughs or not? Will the City permit this circumvention of our environmental law?

We hope you will support our united request for safety in our districts and economic security for National Grid customers who don’t want their monthly bills to increase yet again to pay for another fossil fuel project that would continue the legacy of environmental racism.

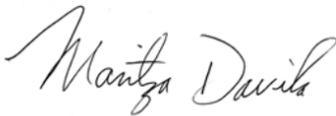
Sincerely,



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Julia Salazar
New York State Senate
18th District

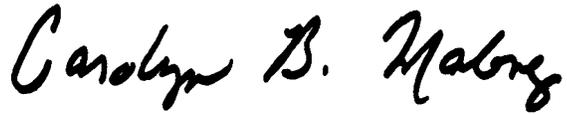


Maritza Davila
Member, New York State Assembly
53rd Assembly District



Jennifer Gutiérrez
New York City Council Member
34th District

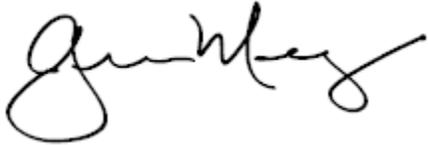
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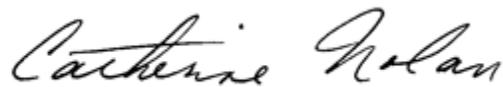


Senator Alessandra Biaggi

NYS ASSEMBLY



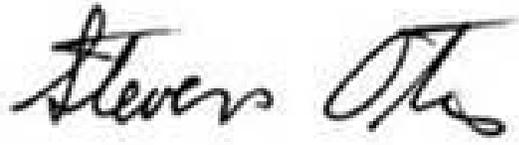
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Assemblymember Catherine Nolan



Assemblymember Nily Rozic

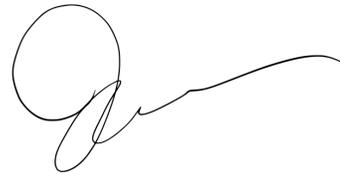


Assemblymember Steven Otis

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