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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

OFFICE OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

August 3, 2016

Chairman Bay
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St NE
Washington DC 20426

Dear Chairman Bay,

We write to request your attention to a matter of significant importance to residents of Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester Counties in New York. Despite considerable opposition from affected communities and elected officials, on March 3rd, 2015, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved Spectra Energy's proposal on the Algonquin Incremental Market pipeline (AIM) expansion project. Spectra Energy subsequently began construction on this project in May 2015. In light of the continued public comment in opposition to this project, we are requesting that FERC suspend construction and instead commission an independent review of the potential health, safety, and environmental impacts.

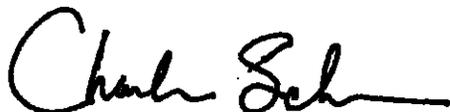
The AIM project is a significant expansion of the current natural gas transmission line on a route which travels through densely populated communities in Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester Counties. The project replaces the current 26-inch pipeline with a new 42-inch diameter pipeline, nearly doubling its current size. Since construction on this project began, our offices have continued to receive comments from the impacted communities about the safety, quality of life and potentially negative environmental and public health impacts of the proposed pipeline expansion.

In addition, the Environmental Impact Statement issued by FERC did not sufficiently address many of the concerns raised by the local community, including the potential impacts of the pipeline's proximity to the Indian Point nuclear power plant. We ask that in addition to immediately suspending construction on this project, FERC commissions an independent review of the safety, environmental, and health concerns raised prior to, throughout, and after the approval process.

2016-00134

We hope that FERC will reconsider the approval and construction of this project and in addition provide more opportunities for an independent review and additional public meetings. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our offices for any questions, clarifications, or relevant follow up.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

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