

February 18, 2015

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor of New York State
State Capitol
Albany, New York

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Elected Officials to Protect New York (EOPNY), the non-partisan statewide network of elected leaders, last wrote to you to express our deep gratitude regarding the decision to prohibit high volume fracking in the Empire State. Again, we are so thankful that you heeded the findings of science and the state's top medical expert in making this crucial decision for the well being of all New York citizens.

Our group also applauds your efforts to promote clean, renewable energy across our state and we intend to do all we can to further this aim. Clearly, actions that move us away from continued reliance on polluting fossil fuels, and toward renewables, are the right path forward for New York, the nation, and our planet, given the contribution of fossil fuel emissions, and methane in particular, to climate instability.

In light of this, the Steering Committee of EOPNY, on behalf of our statewide 851 member network, has this to say regarding the plans for a major gas infrastructure expansion in the Finger Lakes:

Statement on Crestwood Midstream's Proposed LPG Storage Facility and Expansion of Natural Gas Storage along Seneca Lake

Elected Officials to Protect New York was founded in 2012 over the multiple threats posed to public health, the environment, and local economies that the entire life cycle of high volume hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, entails. Concomitantly our statewide network stands strongly for the environmental, health, economic and climate benefits inherent in a rapid transition to renewable energy sources, the right path forward for New York State.

We find the proposed plan of Crestwood Midstream to store massive quantities of LPG (liquefied propane gas) in unlined salt caverns along the shores of Seneca Lake, and its accompanying plan to expand storage capacity for CNG (compressed natural gas) to be irresponsible, and in complete contradiction to the goals of our statewide network. The plan threatens public health, the environment, and the Finger Lakes tourism and winery based economy. We believe there are indeed "significant and substantive" issues with this project, including: a greater than 40% chance of catastrophic fire, explosion, deaths and injuries, evacuations, catastrophic property loss, or contamination of Seneca Lake occurring within 25 years should this storage be allowed; industrialization and pollution of a thriving, world class tourist destination; and a contributor to mounting climate instability via buildout of fossil fuel infrastructure.

Accordingly, we stand in solidarity with the 17 Finger Lakes municipalities, 314 businesses, and thousands of concerned citizens in their opposition to this project.

Julie Huntsman, DVM; EOPNY Co-coordinator; Councilmember, Town of Otsego

Jean Kessner; EOPNY Co-coordinator; Councilor-at-Large, Syracuse Common Council

Louis Allstadt; Trustee, Village of Cooperstown

Carl Chipman; Supervisor, Town of Rochester

Carol Chock; Tompkins County Legislator

Chad Davis; Oneida County Legislator

James Dean; Trustee, Village of Cooperstown

Leah Golby; Councilmember, City of Albany

Martha Robertson; Tompkins County Legislator

Sue Skidmore; Mayor of Elmira

Irene Weiser; Councilmember, Town of Caroline

Gregory Young; Fifth Ward Supervisor, City of Gloversville

Susan Zimet; Supervisor, Town of New Paltz

cc: Honorable Joseph Martens, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation