March 11, 2014

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am a business owner and a resident of the Finger Lakes region, and I oppose the proposal by Crestwood Energy Partners to store natural gas and liquid petroleum gas (LPG) in the salt caverns beneath Seneca Lake.

I write to you today because I believe you also share the vision of hundreds of small business owners like me who have joined our coalition to oppose this facility. You have supported our efforts to achieve our vision through your Economic Development Council Initiative. The booming wine and agri-tourism industry in the Finger Lakes is a testament to the success of your support for locally lead economic development strategies in New York State. Indeed, the Finger Lakes Regional Council identified the wine and agriculture industries as a top priority because of theses industries’ key role supporting the Finger Lakes economy. Small businesses around the region need your continued support to ensure that our shared vision is not jeopardized by the industrialized gas storage development proposed by Crestwood.

We have worked hard to get to where we are today. And it is paying off. Finger Lakes tourism poured nearly $3 billion into the state’s economy in 2012 and accounts for 58,000 jobs. Wineries employ over 1,000 people in the Finger Lakes and Seneca Lake - the largest of the Finger Lakes – is home to nearly half of all of the region’s wineries. This success didn’t happen by coincidence. The region has become what it is today because of the collective vision and hard work of vineyard, winery, restaurant, bed and breakfast, and countless other small business owners and public leaders who have worked together for generations to build our communities and economy around this region’s natural strengths. That vision is threatened by Crestwood’s proposal to turn Seneca Lake, and the Finger Lakes region, into the natural gas and LPG storage and transportation hub of the Northeast.

Allowing that to happen would put the bright future of this region in jeopardy. That is why 3 of the 4 counties surrounding Seneca Lake passed resolutions opposing the facility, why the Geneva Town Board passed a resolution opposing the facility, and why over 200 businesses in the region have joined a coalition to oppose the facility. The choice before you is simple. Will you continue to support the vision of hundreds of small businesses who have worked for generations to build a world class wine region that is the economic engine behind this area’s rapidly growing agri-tourism based economy - or will you support Crestwood’s vision to turn the region into a natural gas transportation and storage hub for the Northeast?

People are not attracted to natural gas compressor stations, open brine pits, loud train depots, 60 foot flare stacks and local roads clogged with heavy truck traffic transporting LPG. The proposed storage facility will not only fundamentally alter the rural community character of the region and threaten our local economy, it also comes with serious safety and environmental concerns. Numerous reports indicate that the region’s geology is not stable for natural gas and LPG storage. This has been demonstrated by a 2.0 earthquake near the proposed facility and massive structural failures within the caverns themselves – all documented now with the DEC. It would take only one accident—natural or man-made—to compromise the safety of the community, pollute Seneca Lake – the drinking water source for over 100,000 people – destroy the region’s reputation, and put the future we have worked to build for generations into jeopardy.

We cannot take that risk. The health and safety of our communities and the economic future of this region depend upon your leadership.

I appreciate your attention to this important issue and respectfully request that you deny any permits to Crestwood and its subsidiaries related to the proposed storage project.

Sincerely,

Name, Signature Business City, State

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