

Monroe Country Legislature

JOSEPH D. MORELLE JR. LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 17

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Monroe County	
Committee Assignment	
Memorializing Referral -L	
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September 4, 2015

To The Honorable Monroe County Legislature 39 West Main Street Rochester, NY 14614

RE: Memorializing the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to Withhold Approval of Liquefied Petroleum Gas Storage Adjacent to Seneca Lake.

Honorable Legislators:

Western New York is a unique and beautiful region composed of eleven Finger Lakes. These lakes are not only important for recreational activities and tourist attractions, but are also crucial sources of drinking water. Seneca Lake in particular provides drinking water for a large segment of the population in Seneca County. Unfortunately the future of Seneca Lake is in jeopardy due to a recently proposed gas storage facility.

This project, by Inergy Midstream Liquefied Petroleum Gas, would store liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) on Seneca Lake. The site of the proposed storage, Well 58, had been previously plugged and abandoned by its prior owner, US Salt, who stated that it was deemed no longer appropriate for storage. State Senator Michael Nozzolio has stated that Inergy was not forthright in a previous report they submitted to the Department of Environmental Conservation, in which they failed to mention that the facility was abandoned by US Salt due to a roof collapse from a minor earthquake.

This critical piece of information raises numerous red flags regarding the safety of this location as well as the integrity of Inergy. It is vital that a storage facility for LPG needs to be adequately vetted and that the safety of the water, fish and wildlife of Seneca Lake is given top priority. Given the history of Well 58, it would be in the best interest of the region to determine a more appropriate location for LPG storage. Reusing this facility puts our region at risk for contamination of our drinking water, and that is unacceptable.

Therefore, we urge you to join us in memorializing the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to withhold approval of liquefied petroleum gas storage adjacent to Seneca Lake.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Morelle, Jr. Legislator – District 17

Cam Mardua

Carrie Andrews Democratic Leader

Justin Wilcox Legislator – District 14

John Lightfoot Legislator – District 25

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Willie J. Lightfoot Assistant Minority Leader

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Joshua Bauroth Legislator – District 24