

LABORERS INTERNATIONAL UNION OF N.A. LOCAL #243

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August 15, 2018

The Hon. John Barrasso
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6175

The Hon. Tom Carpenter
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6175

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carpenter:

On behalf of the nearly 400 members of Local 243, I am writing to express our support for commonsense reforms that would remove regulatory barriers to providing New England with the clean, reliable natural gas supplies it desperately needs. To provide a reliable solution to New England energy cost crisis, expanding the current natural gas infrastructure represents a guaranteed chance to keep the lights on and heat our homes during the unpredictable weather in the region.

The livelihood of our members and the economic competitiveness of New England are at stake. Our members are at the forefront of the construction industry and rely on family-supporting jobs to earn a living. One of the most critical elements of our work is energy. And the cost of energy needed to power equipment and keep the lights on in our homes and businesses is at an all-time high.

Fortunately, the regional solution to this ongoing energy cost-crisis exists in the form of nearby, abundant supplies of natural gas. Unfortunately, the current framework of our regulatory and permitting processes stand in the way of such a solution. For example, the state of New York should not be able to dictate the energy access of its neighbors. We simply cannot afford to disrupt energy infrastructure improvements with unnecessary regulatory hurdles.

Continued avoidance of these energy infrastructure improvements is not the solution. Clarifying existing law to account for the appropriate scope of review for energy projects is a step in the right direction. Please support measures which will remove unnecessary loopholes and help our region secure a more reliable and cost-effective energy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin J. Duffy".

Kevin J. Duffy
Business Manager