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8TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

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AND REFORM

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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February 19, 2021

The Honorable Richard Glick  
Chairman  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Glick:

We write in support of a request for a rehearing on and rescission of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Office of Energy Projects (OEP) In-Service Authorization issued for the natural gas compressor station in Weymouth, Massachusetts on September 24, 2020.<sup>1</sup> We jointly represent the Town of Weymouth and the surrounding municipalities in Congress.

The Weymouth compressor station is located on a small peninsula bordered by the Fore River Basin, King's Cove, and the densely populated neighborhoods of North Weymouth and Quincy. The site is located within a half mile of Quincy Point and Germantown — “environmental justice communities” that suffer persistent environmental health disparities due to socioeconomic and other factors — as well as nearly 1,000 homes,<sup>2</sup> a water treatment plant, and a public park.<sup>3</sup> An estimated 3,100 children live or go to school within a mile of the site, and more than 13,000 children attend school within three miles of the compressor station.<sup>4</sup>

In September 2020, the Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station (FRRACS) submitted to FERC a request for a rehearing after the agency approved Enbridge, Inc.'s in-service certificate. FERC initially denied the FRRACS' request, but on January 19, 2021 FERC ruled that the denial was improper.<sup>5</sup> In support of that decision, you stated that the compressor “raises serious environmental justice questions which we need to examine. The communities

<sup>1</sup> In-Service Authorization from Rich McGuire, Dir., Div. of Gas – Environment and Engineering at FERC, to Chris Harvey, Regulatory Dir., Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC (Sept. 24, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> Barbara Moran, *New Report Finds More Safety Concerns About Proposed Weymouth Compressor Station*, WBUR (May 13, 2019), <https://www.wbur.org/earthwhile/2019/05/13/weymouth-natural-gas-compressor-emergency-response>.

<sup>3</sup> FRRACS, Location of Weymouth Compress, <https://www.nocompressor.com/location-of-the-compressor> (last accessed Feb. 11, 2021).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> David Abel, *After years of protests, a glimmer of hope for opponents to the Weymouth gas compressor*, Boston Globe (Jan. 19, 2021), <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/01/20/metro/after-years-protests-glimmer-hope-opponents-weymouth-gas-compressor/>.

affected by the project are regularly subjected to high levels of pollution, and residents are concerned emissions from the station will make things worse.”<sup>6</sup>

Since then, the need for FERC to approve the FRRACS’ request for a rehearing on the approval of Enbridge, Inc.’s in-service certificate has become even more urgent. On January 22, 2021, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) allowed the Weymouth compressor station to resume operations, removing pressure restrictions that it had put in place following the station’s two emergency shutdowns last September.<sup>7</sup> Following those emergency shutdowns, two independent, third-party analyses determined that, to avoid future unplanned gas releases, Enbridge, Inc. should improve its management of project changes, storage procedures and requirements, commissioning plan and procedures, and risk assessment for non-routine activities.<sup>8</sup>

We understand FERC voted on February 18, 2021 to establish a paper briefing to examine the concerns expressed in this letter and in previous pleadings.<sup>9</sup> We urge you to review these concerns fully and fairly, and to swiftly move to rehear the approval of the in-service certificate.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Bob Fowkes at [bob.fowkes@mail.house.gov](mailto:bob.fowkes@mail.house.gov) if we may provide additional information to you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



STEPHEN F. LYNCH  
Congressman  
8<sup>th</sup> District  
Massachusetts



ELIZABETH WARREN  
United States Senator  
Massachusetts



EDWARD MARKEY  
United States Senator  
Massachusetts

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<sup>6</sup> Rich Glick (@RichGlickFERC), Twitter (Jan. 19, 2020, 11:54 AM), <https://twitter.com/RichGlickFERC/status/1351573877059706880?s=20>.

<sup>7</sup> Letter from Robert T. Burrough, Dir. of E. Region, PHMSA, to William T. Yardley, Exec V.P., Enbridge, Inc. (Jan. 22, 2021).

<sup>8</sup> Root Cause Failure Analysis Investigation Report: Weymouth Compressor Station September 11, 2020 Closure Seal Failure, DNV GL – Report No. 10263555-1, Rev. 0, p. 30 (Dec. 22, 2020); Root Cause Failure Analysis Investigation Report: Weymouth Compressor Station September 30, 2020 Blowout Event, DNV GL – Report No.: 10263555-2, Rev. 0, p. 30 (Dec. 22, 2020).

<sup>9</sup> “FERC Establishes Paper Briefing to Examine Weymouth Compressor Station Concerns.” *Federal Energy Regulatory Commission*, 18 Feb. 2021, [www.ferc.gov/news-events/news/ferc-establishes-paper-briefing-examine-weymouth-compressor-station-concerns](http://www.ferc.gov/news-events/news/ferc-establishes-paper-briefing-examine-weymouth-compressor-station-concerns).