

**NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
1550 FRANKLIN AVENUE, MINEOLA, NY 11501

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**Richard Nicoletto**

Presiding Officer  
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**Committees:**

Chair, Rules  
Vice Chair, Budget Review

June 24, 2019

Karen Gaidasz, Project Manager  
Major Projects Management  
NYSDEC - Division of Environmental Permits  
625 Broadway, 4th Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-1750

Dear Ms. Gaidasz,

On behalf of the Majority Delegation of the Nassau County Legislature, I am writing in support of the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (“NESE”). As you know, this project involves the construction of a twenty-four-mile pipeline from New Jersey to just off the Rockaways to provide 14% increased natural gas capacity for Long Island by allowing the delivery of 400 million cubic feet of natural gas per day. NESE will allow and support development, limit price spikes during very cold weather and ensure that there will continue to exist a cleaner alternative for those seeking to switch from fuel oil. The project will also provide much needed jobs for Long Island’s workers from the project itself and from continued development.

As of mid-May, National Grid has placed a moratorium on Long Island residential and commercial applications to convert heating sources from fuel oil to gas. The average residential customer can save \$2,300 per year after converting from fuel oil to natural gas, while the average commercial/industrial customer can save \$36,000 per year. This moratorium has prevented residents and businesses from accessing affordable, reliable energy, and will hinder development and economic growth across Long Island. NESE would allow National Grid to continue converting thousands of residential and commercial entities from oil to gas per year. Not only will this financially benefit residents and businesses, but it will positively affect the environment, resulting in the annual 200,000 ton reduction of carbon-dioxide emissions and 900,000 barrel displacement of heating oil.

The effects of National Grid’s yearly oil to gas conversion comply with New York State’s clean-energy goal, which is the 80% reduction of 1990 greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. While New York State has further set aggressive, worthy goals for growing the use of renewable energy, it will clearly take time for renewable energy sources to provide for the needs of our region. The proposed pipeline presents an opportunity to give our residents and businesses access to an affordable and relatively clean energy source, while we work toward a future with more renewable energy sources.

In New York State, NESE will create 276 direct and indirect jobs, generating \$16.6 million in labor income. Accordingly, I am proud to join with Long Island’s business and labor leaders to support this project and I strongly urge that you approve the proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of the above.

Regards,

Richard J. Nicoletto  
Presiding Officer  
Nassau County Legislature