

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 12, 2010

The Honorable Jon Wellinghoff
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Chairman Wellinghoff:

With the months-long Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, a great deal of attention has rightly focused on the safety surrounding the extraction and transportation of petroleum and related fuels, including liquefied natural gas (LNG).

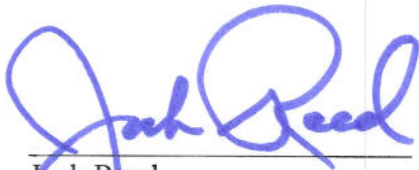
As you know, on February 2, 2009, Weaver's Cove Energy, LLC requested approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a revised plan to locate an offshore berthing and LNG unloading facility in Mount Hope Bay. The latest proposal from Weaver's Cove Energy calls for 950-foot-long supertankers to transit 26 miles through Rhode Island waters to a berthing station located on the Massachusetts side of the border in Mount Hope Bay. The LNG would then be piped underground through approximately four miles of underwater piping to a Fall River storage facility on the banks of the Taunton River in Massachusetts.

FERC has had this project, in its various forms, under official review since 2003. During that time, Rhode Island organizations and citizens groups, as well as hundreds of constituents, have voiced their concerns and reservations about the safety and security of such a development. While located entirely in Massachusetts, the project would arguably have a more profound effect on Rhode Island. Yet, Rhode Island's formal role in approving this project has been severely limited.

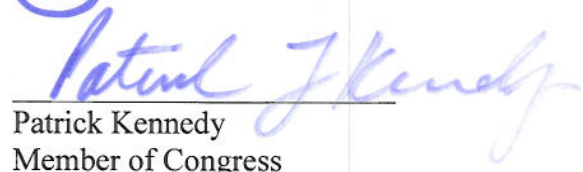
Given the long-standing concern about the potential impacts of a catastrophic event involving LNG, which have been heightened by the Deepwater Horizon disaster, we ask that, consistent with relevant rules and regulations, you and your fellow Commissioners visit Rhode Island to brief and discuss with us and other state and local officials the safety standards FERC requires for LNG terminals, as well as to provide a review of the licensing process and the rights of affected states and communities to intervene. In addition, we also request that you and your fellow Commissioners visit the site of the proposed project.

Please feel free to contact Nancy Langrall in Senator Reed's office (401-528-5200), or George Carvalho in Senator Whitehouse's office (401-453-5294), to schedule a time for the FERC tour and meeting. We look forward to hearing from the Commission.

Sincerely,



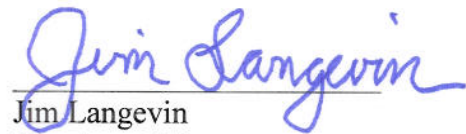
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Patrick Kennedy
Member of Congress



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Jim Langevin
Member of Congress