

December 4, 2020

Dear Delaware River Basin Commissioners,

We, elected officials representing the people of Philadelphia, are writing to express our grave concerns about the plan to transport liquefied natural gas (LNG) through Philadelphia by rail for shipment overseas from a proposed Dock (“Dock 2”) at the Gibbstown Logistics Center in New Jersey on the Delaware River. The company proposing the LNG export terminal wants to transport 100-car trains containing LNG through Philadelphia every day of the year. The transporting of LNG by railcar is unprecedented and untested and exposes Philadelphia residents and workers to the danger of an accident or derailment that could be catastrophic.

The dangers of LNG by rail have been expressed to the federal government by the Attorney Generals of all four Delaware River Basin states, the National Transportation Safety Board, and the International Association of Fire Fighters, among others.

We’ve learned from studying population data along the path of the proposed LNG transport route that the rail route through Philadelphia will expose black and brown and low income communities to the most intense and inescapable zone of impact should there be an accident such as a derailment. We will not tolerate this environmental injustice.

We are speaking directly to you, the Commissioners who will soon be voting on whether the permit should be approved for the proposed dock to export LNG at Gibbstown. As the Governors of the four states that flow to the Delaware, we are requesting that you, as the stewards who protect the communities and water resources of the Basin, vote no on the approval of this project due to the public threats and environmental impacts it entails. As public leaders in our communities, we feel it is our responsibility to voice public opposition to the proposed LNG railcar transportation through our city to prevent the endangerment of so many lives and our neighborhoods.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgently important letter.

Respectfully requested,

1. Cindy Bass, Philadelphia City Council Member (District 8)
2. Kendra Brooks, Philadelphia City Council Member (At Large)
3. Donna Bullock, Pennsylvania State Representative (District 195)
4. Danielle Friel-Otten, Pennsylvania State Representative (District 155)
5. Jamie Gauthier, Philadelphia City Council Member (District 3)
6. Katherine Gilmore Richardson, Philadelphia City Council Member (At Large)
7. Helen Gym, Philadelphia City Council Member (At Large)

8. Jordan Harris, Pennsylvania State Representative (District 186)
9. Joe Hohenstein, Pennsylvania State Representative (District 177)
10. Mary Issacson, Pennsylvania State Representative (District 175)
11. Tim Kearney, Pennsylvania State Senator (District 26)
12. Malcolm Kenyatta, Pennsylvania State Representative (District 181)
13. Rick Krajewski, Pennsylvania State Representative-Elect (District 188)
14. Maureen May, President of PASNAP (Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses & Allied Professionals)
15. Katie Muth, Pennsylvania State Senator (District 44)
16. Cherelle Parker, Philadelphia City Council (District 9)
17. Darisha Parker, Pennsylvania State Representative-Elect (District 198)
18. Chris Rabb, Pennsylvania State Representative (District 200)
19. Nikil Saval, Pennsylvania State Senator-Elect (District 1)
20. Anthony Sessa, General Chairperson Pennsylvania Federation BMWED-Teamsters (Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees)
21. Brian Sims, Pennsylvania State Representative (District 182)
22. Jared Solomon, Pennsylvania State Representative (District 202)
23. Mark Squilla, Philadelphia City Council (District 1)
24. Isaiah Thomas, Philadelphia City Council Member (At Large)
25. Greg Vitali, Pennsylvania State Representative (District 166)
26. Joe Webster, Pennsylvania State Representative (District 150)