



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage

GOVERNOR

August 14, 2014

The Honorable Deval Patrick  
Governor  
Massachusetts State House  
Room 105  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick,

In December 2013 the New England Governors announced a partnership to increase energy infrastructure that would enable low-cost natural gas resources from Pennsylvania and hydropower from Canada to power our region. It was the first time this region announced that we were serious about competitively priced electricity.

Since that announcement the energy situation in New England has intensified from a dire situation to a crisis. Last winter, cold temperatures revealed a serious natural gas capacity constraint that dramatically increased electricity costs across New England. According to ISO-New England and our own reports, this is a preview of what will occur with regularity in New England if we do not address our natural gas infrastructure. A failure to expand this basic infrastructure will increase our already high-cost electricity prices, challenge our existing businesses and residents, and make it harder to attract new investment into our region.

Backup oil generators are increasingly being used to keep the lights on in New England when we are geographically close to one of the most significant natural gas supplies in the world. It makes no sense. Our initiative was a bold effort to bring competitively priced energy supplies to power New England and continue to reduce pollution. Despite the fact that our region has made progress on the policy framework to move forward with this infrastructure, it has come to my attention that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has decided not to continue additional natural gas capacity for New England. This is a colossal mistake.

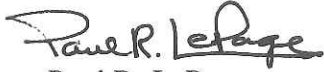
North American shale gas is powering economies across the country, and our allies across the world are eager to take advantage of stable natural gas supplies from our backyard. We must do the same. I have stood with the region to move forward with a sensible energy plan, including potential renewable and transmission development in Maine. This action raises fundamental questions about Maine's partnership with the rest of New England with respect to our energy collaboration.



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New England desperately needs additional natural gas capacity. Please join New England in increasing this critical infrastructure and reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul R. LePage". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "L".

Paul R. LePage  
Governor

Cc:

The Honorable Dan Malloy, Governor of Connecticut  
The Honorable Maggie Hassan, Governor of New Hampshire  
The Honorable Lincoln Chafee, Governor of Rhode Island  
The Honorable Peter Shumlin, Governor of Vermont