**Support AR164**

**BACKGROUND:**

Assemblyman Danielsen submitted AR164 opposing the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE), which proposes to build a 32,000 hp natural gas fired compressor on the border of Princeton, South Brunswick, Franklin Township and Montgomery Township.  This bill is currently stuck in the Telecommunications and Utilities Committee, and if not moved, will never be reviewed or submitted for vote.  Only Assembly members can request the bill to be moved to a different Committee.

**SCRIPT:**

I am calling about Assemblyman Danielsen’s bill, AR164, which tells FERC that we do not want the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project due to its risks to our health, safety and well-being as well as negative impacts on the shore economy and life in the Bay. This bill is now in the Telecommunications & Utilities Committee, and I am asking you to support it by asking Chairman DeAngelo to put it up for a vote promptly, and asking Speaker Coughlin to post the bill for a vote by the entire Assembly. The gas is all for New York City, while New Jersey will suffer the consequences of a polluting compressor station which increases the speed and volume of gas going through pipes that were installed in 1950 and 1969. The airborne toxic chemicals will be a threat to our health, and the methane emissions will make ozone and climate change impacts worse.

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|  **Please call your local State Assembly persons and ask them to:**1. Support AR164
2. Request that Telecommunications & Utilities Chairman Wayne DeAngelo have AR164 promptly heard in his committee
3. Request that Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin post the bill for a vote.
* **The NESE Project adds capacity for NYC, not NJ, while traversing through NJ infrastructure.**
* **NESE increases airborne toxic chemicals, pollution and Methane emissions in NJ.**
* **NESE subjects parts of the Central Jersey pipeline highway to increased risk due to added capacity (volume and velocity of gas) in segments installed in 1950 and 1969.**
* **NESE does not add any capacity for New Jersey, making it irrelevant for Telecommunications & Utility to consider.**
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| Call Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo and tell him that you want the AR164 resolution scheduled for a hearing in his committee promptly.609-631-7501asmdeangelo@njleg.org |
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| If you live in Franklin Township, Milltown, New Brunswick, North Brunswick or Piscataway, call Senator Bob Smith and ask him to sponsor a similar bill in the NJ Senate.732-752-0770 or 1-877-829-8237senbsmith@njleg.org |
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| If you live in South Brunswick, Montgomery, Rocky Hill or Princeton, call Senator Christopher (Kip) Bateman and ask him to sponsor a similar bill in the NJ Senate.908-526-3600senbateman@njleg.org |

**Assembly Speaker: Craig J. Coughlin**

732-855-7441

asmCoughlin@njleg.org

***STATE - 17th District (Franklin Township, Milltown, New Brunswick, North Brunswick, Piscataway)***

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| ***Senator Bob Smith***216 Stelton Road, Suite E-5 - Piscataway, NJ 08854 | 732-752-07701-877-829-8237 | senbsmith@njleg.org |
| ***Assemblyman Joe Danielsen***334 Elizabeth Avenue - Somerset, NJ 08873 | 732-247-3999 | asmDanielsen@njleg.org |
| ***Assemblyman Joseph V. Egan*** 100 Bayard Street - New Brunswick, NJ 08901 | 732-249-4550 | asmEgan@njleg.org |

***STATE - 16th District (South Brunswick, Montgomery, Rocky Hill, Princeton)***

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| ***Senator Christopher Bateman***36 East Main Street - Somerville, NJ 08876 | 908-526-3600 | senbateman@njleg.org |
| ***Assemblyman Roy Freiman***(temporary office)50 Division Street, Suite 200 - Somerville, NJ 08876 | 908-450-7064 | asmFrieman@njleg.org |
| ***Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker*** 1 Deerpark Drive, Suite D1 – Monmouth Jct. 08852 | 732-823-1684 | asmZwicker@njleg.org |

***STATE - 19th District (Sayreville)***

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| ***Senator Joseph F. Vitale***569 Rahway Avenue - Woodbridge, NJ 07095 | 732-855-7441 | asmVitale@njleg.org  |
| ***Assemblyman Craig J. Coughlin*** 569 Rahway Avenue - Woodbridge, NJ 07095 | 732-855-7441 | asmCoughlin@njleg.org  |
| ***Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez***211 Front Street – Perth Amboy, NJ 08861 | 732-638-5057 | asmLopez@njleg.org  |

***STATE - 12th District (Old Bridge)***

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| ***Senator Samuel D. Thompson***2501 Highway 516, Suite 101 - Old Bridge, NJ 08857 | 732-607-7580 | senThompson@njleg.org  |
| ***Assemblyman Robert D. Clifton*** 935 Highway 35, Suite 3B - Matawan, NJ 07747 | 732-970-6386 | asmClifton@njleg.org  |
| ***Assemblyman Ronald S. Dancer*** 2110 West County Line Road - Jackson, NJ 08527 | 609-758-0205 | asmDancer@njleg.org  |

**ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 164**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**218th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JUNE 4, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JOE DANIELSEN**

**District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)**

 **SYNOPSIS**

Expresses to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission opposition to proposed Northeast Supply Enhancement Project; urges consideration of certain alternative projects.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** expressing to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the General Assembly’s opposition about the proposed Northeast Supply Enhancement Project due to its numerous public health and safety risks and urging consideration of alternative projects that may satisfy New York’s energy growth needs without risking the health and safety of New Jersey residents and visitors, and the environment.

**WHEREAS,** The Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Project is a proposed capacity expansion of the Transco Pipeline, an interstate natural gas transmission pipeline owned and operated by Williams Partners, L.P. (Williams), an Oklahoma-based company, which also owns and operates Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco), the company that operates natural gas transmission pipelines that transport natural gas from production areas to customers located in the northeastern United States; and

**WHEREAS,** In March 2017, Williams announced that Transco filed a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) seeking authorization for the NESE Project to be built; and

**WHEREAS,** The NESE Project includes a proposed 32,000 horsepower natural gas compressor station to be located in Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey on land previously owned by Trap Rock Industries LLC, which operates the nearby Kingston Quarry; and

**WHEREAS,** The proposed natural gas compressor station is to include two natural gas-powered turbine compressors to maintain the pressure while increasing the volume capacity of natural gas transported through the regional natural gas transmission pipeline system to better facilitate delivery to customers; and

**WHEREAS,** Much of the current natural gas transmission pipeline system in the area is approximately 50 years old and it is unclear whether this older natural gas transmission pipeline will be able to withstand the increased natural gas volume and velocity of transported gas proposed under the NESE Project; and

**WHEREAS,** The Kingston Quarry is an active blasting zone, which may increase the potential for an explosion at the natural gas compressor station and raises concern over the health and safety of local residents; and

**WHEREAS,** Williams has not made any assurances to local residents that appropriate steps will be taken to train and equip surrounding volunteer fire departments for an emergency response to a natural gas explosion; and

**WHEREAS,** This area of Franklin Township suffers from low water pressure and Williams has not proposed a plan to coordinate with the Franklin Township Public Works to increase water pressure to the natural gas compressor station to assist volunteer fire departments in the event of an emergency; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to low water pressure, the roads surrounding this area do not have functioning fire hydrants, which limits any type of emergency response from fire fighters; and

**WHEREAS,** Local residents have not been informed about the effect on the air quality surrounding the natural gas compressor station, especially during “blowdowns,” or the deliberate venting of natural gas for maintenance purposes, to relieve pressure within the pipeline, or in an emergency situation; and

**WHEREAS,** Blowdowns can last for up to two hours and produce a noise comparable to a commercial jet taking off; and

**WHEREAS,** Williams’ application to FERC in their report concerning air quality and noise indicates that ongoing annual chemical airborne emissions related to the NESE Project include several chemicals that are known carcinogens in parts per million concentrations; and

**WHEREAS,** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention attribute chronic illnesses to low concentration exposure of these chemicals, and several of these chemicals are lethal to humans in higher concentrations; and

**WHEREAS,** The FERC and other State and federal agencies have yet to perform a thorough health impact assessment of toxic airborne chemicals on the highly concentrated population of the area surrounding the compressor station, and have yet to perform long-term modeling studies of contamination of the immediate area where there are plans to convert the Kingston Quarry to a reservoir; and

**WHEREAS,** The NESE Project includes a plan to build 23.49 miles of new natural gas transmission pipeline under the Raritan Bay to increase the natural gas supply to customers outside of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS,** The proposed workspace and construction will disturb 22 square miles (14,100 acres) of Raritan Bay contaminated seafloor sediment, impacting aquatic life and nearby beaches; and

**WHEREAS,** The Raritan Bay workspace intrudes on the Jetty Sector of the Raritan Bay Slag Superfund Site; and

**WHEREAS,** The FERC’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement, issued on March 23, 2018, failed to adequately address these air quality and noise concerns and the impact on the Raritan Bay; and

**WHEREAS,** On April 20, 2018, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation recently denied Williams’ application for a State water quality permit for the NESE Project due to “potentially significant” impact on water quality; and

**WHEREAS,** It is altogether fitting and proper, and in the public interest, for this House to express to the FERC its opposition to the proposed NESE Project and to urge the FERC to consider alternative projects that may satisfy New York’s energy growth needs without risking the health and safety of New Jersey residents and visitors, and the environment; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. This House expresses to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) its opposition to the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Project and urges the FERC to consider alternative projects that may satisfy New York’s energy growth needs without risking the health and safety of New Jersey residents and visitors, and the environment.
2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the Chairman and each commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

STATEMENT

This Assembly Resolution expresses to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) its opposition to the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Project, a proposed capacity expansion of the Transco Pipeline, an interstate natural gas transmission pipeline, which includes a natural gas compressor station to be located in Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey on land previously owned by Trap Rock Industries LLC, which operates the nearby Kingston Quarry.

Much of the current natural gas transmission pipeline system in the area is approximately 50 years old and it is unclear whether this older natural gas transmission pipeline will be able to withstand the increased natural gas volume and velocity proposed by the NESE Project. The Kingston Quarry is an active blasting zone, which may increase the potential for an explosion at the natural gas compressor station and raises concern over the health and safety of local residents.

In March 2017, it was announced that Transco, which operates natural gas transmission pipelines in the northeast, filed an application with the FERC seeking authorization for the NESE Project to be built. This House opposes the NESE Project and urges the FERC to consider alternative projects that may satisfy New York’s energy growth needs without risking the health and safety of New Jersey residents and visitors, and the environment.