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**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY 12247**

**JOHN J. FLANAGAN
2ND SENATE DISTRICT
SENATE MINORITY LEADER**

August 5, 2019

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Basil Seggos, Commissioner
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-1011

Dear Commissioner Seggos:

I write in support of the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE) application, which is currently awaiting approval by your agency. As you know, National Grid recently announced that it has reached full capacity of its gas supply and can no longer process requests for new or expanded gas service for residential or commercial developments.

Over the past several years, demand for natural gas has grown significantly due to ongoing conversions of oil heat to gas, and this demand will continue to grow by more than 10 percent over the next 10 years. As a result, the recent moratorium imposed by National Grid on oil to gas conversions presents a significant threat to the environmental and economic well-being of the residents and businesses I represent on Long Island.

Expanding access to clean, reliable and affordable natural gas aligns with the State's Clean Energy Transition Policy to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050. In fact, the NESE project will allow National Grid to maintain its goal of converting approximately 8,000 residential and commercial customers each year, while displacing 900,000 barrels of oil per year, reducing CO2 emissions by 200,000 tons per year and reducing other local emissions by 300 tons per year.

In addition to the environmental benefits, DEC's approval of the NESE project will go a long way in creating good-paying jobs and supporting critical economic development projects like Belmont Park Redevelopment, LaGuardia International Airport Redevelopment, and 30 major development projects in neighborhoods and downtown communities surrounding Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Residential customers and business owners recently expressed their concerns about the inability to access the many benefits afforded by converting to natural gas because of National Grid's recent moratorium. On their behalf, we respectfully request your immediate approval of the NESE project to ensure the continued delivery of safe, affordable and clean natural gas supply to our constituents.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this extremely important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John J. Flanagan'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

John J. Flanagan

cc: Karen Gaidasz, NYSDEC
Division of Environmental Permits