Concerns Regarding Northern Access 2016 Pipeline Project

In order to export gas to Canada through the Northern Access 2016 pipeline project, National Fuel is proposing to build a dehydration facility half a mile from the banks of the Niagara River and about a mile from reportedly leaking Love Canal. The proposed site of the dehydration facility is adjacent to railroad tracks that carry tanker cars of chlorine gas and is less than half a mile from hundreds of homes. To meet more stringent Canadian standards waste will be removed from the gas before sending it through aging pipeline under the Niagara River. Endangering NY residents and the source of drinking water for millions is too high a price for National Fuel's profit.

National Fuel is proposing to build the Northern Access 2016 pipeline project from the fracking fields of PA though Western NY. The 97 miles of pipeline would cross 180 streams and 270 wetlands along the way. In addition it would cross the Cattaraugus Creek Basin Aquifer – the sole source of drinking water for about 20,000 residents in Cattaraugus, Erie and Wyoming counties. A 1987 EPA report designated this aquifer, in accord with the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, to be the sole source of drinking water for eight municipal and 15 community water systems, and countless private wells, serving Delevan, Freedom, Machias, Yorkshire, Chaffee, Springville, Sardinia and Arcade. This is way too much risk for National Fuel’s profit.

National Fuel is proposing to build the Northern Access 2016 project a 97 mile pipeline through rural Western NY that would cross 180 streams and 270 wetlands on it's way from McKean County PA to Elma NY. In late November two hunters discovered four leaks bubbling up through water in Boyce Hill State Forest in the Town of Franklinville, NY. News reports discovered that National Fuel had known about the leaks for over a year but did not consider them a priority because they were “in rural areas and out in the middle of nowhere”, according to Karen Merkel National Fuel’s spokeswoman. This shows complete disregard for the very areas including the Town of Franklinville that the proposed pipeline would cross. National Fuel sited as one of their higher priorities, getting gas pipelines to new customers. This irresponsibility is evidence that National Fuel is not a company that should be allowed to put our waterways and residents at risk whether they live in rural or highly populated areas.

NY has the opportunity and imperative to lead the way with renewable energy and counteract the dangerous climate change denial that is taking hold in Washington. Allowing National Fuel to build the Northern Access 2016 a 97 mile fracked gas pipeline, compressor stations and dehydration facility is not the way to tackle the very real danger of climate change. A new study from Cornell professors Anthony Ingraffea and Robert Howarth is showing that methane leaks are higher than previously thought along pipelines and at fracking sites and we will not meet our Paris climate goals if we continue the build up of fracked gas infrastructure. Methane is a highly potent heat trapping gas - over 80 times more potent than CO2. We need very real solutions to climate change NOT a fracked gas pipeline.

Robert Galbraith of the Public Accountability Initiative has done a study linking National Fuel’s request that is now pending with the Public Service Commission for a rate increase to the funding for National Fuel's proposal to build this pipeline. There is no way NY’s rate payers should pay for National Fuel to export fracked gas to Canada for the profit of National Fuel’s executives and shareholders.
National Fuel is threatening NY residents all along the proposed pipeline with eminent domain proceedings to obtain the right of way to build a pipeline not for the public good but for their own profit.

National Fuel is proposing to build a 22,214 horsepower compressor station in the Town of Pendleton and add an additional 5,350 horsepower to the Porterville Compressor Station in Elma, NY to send their fracked gas through 24” high pressure pipelines through Western NY communities for export to Canada. Compressor stations carry many risks including emissions of toxic benzene, toluene, formaldehyde and hydrogen sulfide. In addition these compressor stations use fracked gas (methane) to transport methane thereby increasing the greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change.