

# NEW JERSEY STATE AFL-CIO

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September 23, 2010

Dear Members of the Senate Environment Committee:

## RE: SR-58 – Opposes Development of Offshore LNG Facility

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO supports the development of the Liberty Natural Gas (LNG) facility, and therefore, opposes the resolution before you today.

LNG is a project that would go a long way in providing a significant source of energy directly into New Jersey and would be delivered in a way that pays the respect to the surrounding environment. In fact, Liberty has made many accommodations to their engineering and construction plans in order to upgrade to the most environmentally sensitive options available – which has increased the total cost of the project.

LNG is about to embark on an extensive review and permitting process that will take a minimum of a year and will be studied and reviewed by multiple state and federal agencies – including the Coast Guard, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the New Jersey DEP, before moving forward. The issue of concern listed in SR-58, such as its impact on the environment, shipping routes, port traffic, and vessel safety all will be thoroughly reviewed and vetted by these agencies before allowing the project to be constructed. The New Jersey State AFL-CIO believes that we should let the process take its course – and if these issues are as detrimental as portrayed by some, then the process will identify those flaws and either request that LNG correct it, or that the project is not feasible. Prematurely condemning the project before the review, we believe is a disservice to the enormous positives this project could bring to our state.

What are those positives? We point to the significant job creation and economic stimulus the project will provide, as well as playing a major role in providing a clean energy source, making a massive \$875 million investment in our energy infrastructure and fitting into the State's energy master plan. In fact, page 81 of the current NJ E.M.P. states that "the State also recognizes that the diversification of the State's fuel portfolio can increase reliability, and encourage competition, which may help stabilize energy prices in New Jersey. Therefore, any liquefied natural gas terminal or other fuel supply project that meets the DEP's strictest environmental requirements will be permitted for operation."

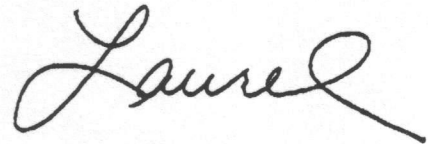
Of course – jobs are of primary importance to our organization. An estimated 1100 jobs would be created in permanent service and maintenance, including 700 offshore and about 300 onshore construction jobs. Finally, due to access to this new source, we believe energy prices will help to be stabilized, and the overall price of natural gas to the consumer will be reduced.

We recognize that New Jersey residents want and demand that these types of projects be built and maintained in a fashion sensitive to the environment. We believe the type of facility being developed accomplishes this. For the reasons stated, we respectfully ask the committee to not advance this resolution at this time.

Sincerely,



Charles Wowkanech  
President



Laurel Brennan  
Secretary-Treasurer

CW:LB:jn  
OPEIU:153