



Moose Hill Farm
396 Moose Hill Street
Sharon, MA 02067

tel 781.784.0567
fax 781.784.4796

www.thetrustees.org

May 28, 2014

The Honorable Deval Patrick
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

RE: Kinder Morgan Tennessee Gas Pipeline

Dear Governor Patrick:

We deeply appreciate your staunch and visionary leadership in protecting open space throughout the Commonwealth and in addressing climate change through both mitigation and adaptation. We are proud to work with you and the Executive Office of Energy and Environment Affairs (EEA) and look forward to impressing on the next Administration the need to continue and even expand the commitments you have made in these critically important areas.

It appears that your administration is now being asked to passively accept a project which will substantially damage your achievements in both of these areas. The proposed Kinder Morgan Tennessee Gas Pipeline would require a fifty-foot pipeline corridor, 250 miles in length, to travel through the largely undeveloped lands of northern Massachusetts from Lenox to Dracut, damaging over a thousand acres of priority habitat and areas of critical environmental concern. The indirect impacts could extend to thousands of acres of land along the corridor, fragmenting some of Massachusetts highest quality natural landscapes and disrupting Biomap core habitats at a time when the health of our landscapes and the quality of our water is most critical. This project also comes at a time of rapid climate change, so we urge you to review this project in the context of accelerating a clean energy future for our state.

The Trustees of Reservations protects, for public use and enjoyment, properties of exceptional scenic, historic and ecological value across the state. We now care for over 100 unique special places across Massachusetts and serve over 2 million visitors each year. We are honored to be an active partner with your administration, which has built a remarkable legacy of conservation and access to open space in Massachusetts.

We are concerned that this legacy is seriously threatened by the proposed pipeline route, which travels through an estimated twenty state-protected wildlife management areas and state forests, municipal watershed protection areas, the reservations and sanctuaries of The Trustees and Mass Audubon, the Appalachian Trail Corridor, and other conserved lands. We urge you to protect the deep public and private investments that have created this spectacular network of conservation land along the northern Massachusetts corridor. This remarkably intact landscape is recognized for its extraordinary scenic beauty, the recreational opportunities that draw millions of visitors from in and out of state, and the clean water and healthy ecosystems that Massachusetts residents strongly value and support.

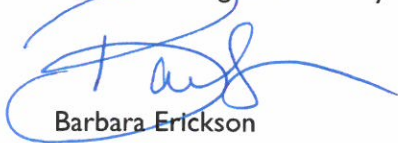
Kinder Morgan has not yet made a proposal to the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission; however, it seems committed to survey only a single, relatively narrow corridor most adversely affecting the state's

natural resources, making a substantial investment before a public process has even been initiated. We ask that you, Secretary Sullivan, and Chairperson Berwick intervene in the process at this point to ensure that it is open to public view, citizen comment, and constructive critique that may substantially reduce the impact of the pipeline. We also urge that you and others, including Secretary Davey, review possible alternative corridors, including the possible use of existing road (such as the Mass Turnpike), rail, or utility corridors that could prove to be better alternatives for the state. A private investment of this magnitude and potential environmental consequence should not be made without full discussion by stakeholders and the public, as well as by the state MEPA office and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Joining many other Massachusetts landowners, conservation organizations, and communities, we have declined to grant permission to Kinder Morgan to enter upon and survey one of our properties in western Massachusetts, a popular Nordic Ski Area called Notchview with over 3,000 acres of pristine wilderness in our care. We see the request as premature and even arrogant: to survey for this purpose even before the project as a whole has been put before public or FERC suggests that the outcome of the FERC process is pre-ordained. Prompt action by your administration and our Congressional delegation is the best way to ensure that location, construction and mitigation of this facility include consideration of the state's interests before the project is so far along as to affect the choices available to FERC in its ultimate jurisdiction to determine whether the pipeline should be permitted. We believe that MEPA should have a role in the analysis of impacts and corresponding mitigation.

Governor Patrick, we continue to receive feedback from Trustees members and supporters who are deeply concerned about the pipeline and its impacts. We strongly urge you to open the process, evaluate the impacts, examine alternate routes, and seek a level of mitigation that will protect our irreplaceable natural areas and provide the greatest benefits to the Commonwealth.

With sincere gratitude for your leadership,



Barbara Erickson
President & CEO

cc: Senator Elizabeth Warren
Senator Edward Markey
Congressman James McGovern
Congresswoman Niki Tsongas
Senator Benjamin Downing, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
Representative John Keenan, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
Secretary Rick Sullivan, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Ann Berwick, Chair, Department of Public Utilities
Susan Reid, Conservation Law Foundation
Henry Tepper, President, Massachusetts Audubon Society
Rich Hubbard, President, Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition
Eugene Benson, Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions