



Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, Inc.
18 Wolbach Road, Sudbury, MA 01776
978.443.2233 - fax: 978.443.2333
email: Info@MassLand.org

February 25, 2014

The Honorable Deval L. Patrick
Governor
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House
Boston, MA 01233

Dear Governor Patrick:

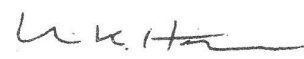
On behalf of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition (MLTC) and its 129 member organizations, we are writing to express our deep concern regarding a proposal by Kinder Morgan, Inc. and its subsidiary, Tennessee Gas, to run a pipeline from New York State across Massachusetts for the purpose of moving natural gas to the Boston region.


While maps of the proposed New York route for this pipeline show Kinder Morgan using an existing right-of-way, actions by representatives of Tennessee Gas suggest it is considering a route for the pipeline across the Commonwealth's rural northern tier; off of existing right-of-ways and directly through undeveloped tracts of land, including publicly and privately owned conservation land.

A number of landowners, towns and land trusts report having been approached by Tennessee Gas seeking permission to survey a pipeline route across their properties. Many of these properties have been conserved by Conservation Restrictions approved by the Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, or are owned and managed for conservation purposes. There is even evidence that state-owned conservation lands are being targeted. One landowner, whose land is surrounded on three sides by a Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation State Forest, reports that she was told by a Tennessee Gas representative that the company had been given "permission" to survey possible pipeline routes across state-owned conservation land!

Governor Patrick, you have been an incredible champion for land conservation in Massachusetts. Your commitment to conserving critical open space and natural resources is unmatched by past administrations to the extent that you will leave the citizens of Massachusetts a remarkable legacy of over 100,000 acres of land conserved during your tenure as Governor. MLTC urges you to defend your legacy and the extraordinary investment in decades of land protection by forcing Tennessee Gas to seek alternative routes for its proposed pipeline using existing right-of-ways, including transportation corridors, and to avoid at all costs, and under all circumstances, public and privately owned conservation land.

Sincerely,


Richard K. Hubbard
President


Charles E. Knox
Executive Director

Cc: Secretary Rick Sullivan, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs