



**CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS**  
Department of Health & Human Services  
Division of Public Health



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Matilde Castiel, MD  
Health & Human Services  
Commissioner

Karyn E. Clark  
Public Health  
Director

Governor Charles Baker  
Massachusetts State House  
24 Beacon Street  
Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133  
Attention: Governor's Office

Dear Governor Baker,

The Worcester Board of Health joins 67 other local health boards in urging you to require an independent health impact assessment prior to authorization of any natural gas infrastructure project in the Commonwealth.

Natural gas flowing through pipelines contains volatile contaminants, such as benzene and formaldehyde, which can cause human illnesses, even at low concentrations. Releases are routine, whether from leaks or maintenance. The Commonwealth has an obligation to protect the health of its citizens; yet, the potential health effects of natural gas pipelines are not being examined.

More effective regulation of existing natural gas pipelines to minimize adverse health effects is needed. In addition, health impact assessments should be required before any new pipeline authorization occurs. This perspective is shared by national health organizations, including the American Medical Association:

“Our AMA recognizes the potential impact on human health associated with natural gas infrastructure and supports legislation that would require a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment regarding the risks that may be associated with natural gas pipelines.”  
(Resolution H- 135.930)

The Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) has adopted the following policies:

1. That the MMS recognizes the potential impact on human health associated with natural gas infrastructure. (HP)
2. That the MMS advocate to appropriate agencies and the Massachusetts state legislature to require ongoing independent Comprehensive Health Impact Assessments to assess the



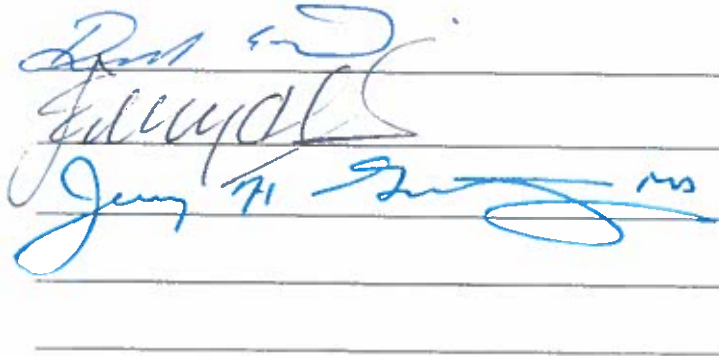
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human health risks of all existing and proposed new or expanded natural gas infrastructure in Massachusetts. (D)

This is an issue of great urgency as new pipelines are being considered for Massachusetts. The health of the citizens of Massachusetts is in your hands.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink is written across four horizontal lines. The signature is cursive and appears to read "John H. [unclear]".