

May 6, 2019

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

The Chelsea Reform Democratic Club urges you to deny the permits necessary for the construction of the Williams pipeline, a new fracked gas pipeline that would run through the waters off Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island.

The Williams pipeline would endanger local communities and the environment, while further locking our state into dependence on fossil fuels at a time when we must be shifting as quickly as possible to 100 percent renewable energy.

The 23-mile pipeline proposed by Williams, an Oklahoma-based company with a poor safety record, would run from New Jersey to Rockaway. It would come as close as a mile to Staten Island and continue past Coney Island and other Brooklyn beaches to link up with two existing pipelines off the Rockaway shore. We oppose the pipeline for the following reasons:

There's no need for the gas this pipeline would carry. A significant new market for gas as a heating fuel is not likely to emerge. With the region building more solar and wind capacity, there almost certainly won't be an uptick in demand for gas to generate electricity. And if, as we predict, the demand for the gas fails to materialize, National Grid customers in Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island would be forced to pay for the \$926.5 million project through higher rates.

The project poses immediate risks to human health and to marine life. During its year-long construction, the project would churn up arsenic, lead, DDT, dioxins, and PCBs, endangering beachgoers and marine life.

The pipeline undercuts state promises on climate. Allowing the construction of a new pipeline to carry fracked gas would undermine New York's commitment to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the planet.

Building a new pipeline in the areas that were ravaged by Superstorm Sandy is simply unconscionable. If we want to confront the threat of climate change, we must end our reliance on fossil fuels—and defeat new fossil fuel projects such as the Williams Pipeline. Chelsea was hard hit by Sandy, so we are particularly sensitive to the effects of climate change.

Governor Cuomo, you can stop this pipeline by denying the needed permits. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will, in all likelihood, approve this project. But Williams would need the Department of Environmental Conservation to provide a water quality certificate and a protection of navigable waters permit. Williams would also require an easement for use of underwater land from the state's Office of General Services.



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Democratic Club
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**We urge you to use your authority to stop this unnecessary,
costly, and dangerous pipeline.**

Sincerely,

CHELSEA REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Judy Richheimer

Judy Richheimer, President

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