

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Continue the fight against pipelines

To the Editor:

In early August, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court set an example for the rest of the United States when they deemed the "pipeline tax" unconstitutional. This tax would have been a monthly fee imposed by utility companies on electricity customers as a way to pay for gas pipelines they wanted to come through Massachusetts.

Despite the defeat of the tax in the courts, natural gas is still a danger to the Commonwealth: Governor Baker continues to support and promote a natural gas pipeline that would cut across the northern and western parts of the Commonwealth. Since the court ruled that Massachusetts electric customers don't have to pick up the tab, the gas companies are looking for other ways to subsidize

the project..... And, unfortunately, the Governor is continuing to support this losing proposition, instead of focusing on making Massachusetts the clean energy powerhouse that we have the potential to become.

In addition to devastating miles of land, new pipelines would have a lasting impact on clean air and climate change. We should not be looking for ways to increase our demand for fracked "natural" gas, but make a deeper commitment to the development of clean energy. The pipelines are just another scheme from the utilities to keep ratepayers dependent on dirty energy. The governor should not be endorsing their dirty plans, and should be thinking more about the people of Massachusetts than lining the utility's pockets.

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