

Skit: Our Children's Health is Not for Sale

By Anne Goodwin, Mothers Out Front MA , February 2019

Characters: Narrator, Gov Charlie Baker, Fracked Gas Executive, Local Residents, Doctors, Boards of Health, Mothers, Children

Props: String of money, children's safety scissors, oversized name tags for characters

Crowd assembles on stairs with signs and scissors. Narrator preps them on chant: Our childrens' health is not for sale! Cut your toes to fossil fuels!

Charlie Baker, Fracked Gas Executive, holding string of money, step in front.

Narrator: This is Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker. He says he cares about protecting the environment and even testified about climate change before Congress in Washington DC just yesterday. He wants to be seen as a climate hero.

Yet, he says he has no choice but to give permit after permit to the Canadian corporation Spectra/Enbridge so they can build a toxic and dangerous fracked gas compressor station right in the middle of the town of Weymouth.

(person labelled "Fracked Gas Executive" wraps Baker's hands in string of money then steps away)

Gov Baker, why do you have no choice? Is it because your hands are tied by fracked gas industry money? Are you closer to gas lobbyists than you are to your own Massachusetts residents?

We are the people of Massachusetts, here today to help you cut your ties to fossil fuel money, so you can use them to protect the health and safety of our children and all people. We say:

Crowd (*raising scissors*): Our Children's Health Is Not for Sale!
Cut your ties!

Fore River Residents *step forward, show scissors during speech*

Narrator: Here are the residents of the Fore River Basin, who have been asking you to stop this project for over four years. They want to tell you that there are 3,100 children in a mile of the proposed site, and an environmental justice community right across the river. They remind you that every elected official on the South Shore has spoken against the compressor station.

Fore River Residents step to side

Narrator: Thank you Fore River Residents. We all say:

Crowd (*raising scissors*): Our Children's Health Is Not for Sale!
Cut your ties!

Doctors *step forward, and show their scissors during speech:*

Narrator: Here are doctors to tell you that the chemicals emitted by the compressor station would increase rates of childhood asthma, heart disease, and cancer. The Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility just published a rebuttal to the faulty Health Impact Assessment you approved. We hope you will read it!

Doctors *step to side while crowd chants*

Narrator: Thank you doctors. We all say:

Crowd (raising scissors): Our Children's Health Is Not for Sale!
Cut your ties!

Boards of Health step forward, show scissors during speech

Narrator: And here are 93 Boards of Health in towns and cities across the state. They all signed a letter testifying that fracked gas is a threat to health, and calling for a real Health Impact Assessment, not the rushed and compromised kind like the one you approved.

Boards of Health step to side while crowd chants

Narrator: We all say:

Crowd (raising scissors) Our Children's Health Is Not for Sale!
Cut your ties!

Mothers step forward and show scissors

Narrator: And here are the Mothers of Massachusetts: They want you to really be the climate hero that you pretend you are. They say, no more fossil fuel development in Massachusetts!

Mothers step to side

Narrator: Thank you mothers. We all say:

Crowd (raising scissors) Our Children's Health Is Not for Sale!
Cut your ties to fossil fuels!

Narrator: And here are the children of Massachusetts. They say-
Gov Baker, why don't you care about our health and safety?

Thank you children. Will you please help Gov Baker free?
Children help Gov Baker free himself from the string of money

We all say:

Crowd (*raising scissors and repeating while Baker is freed*) Our Children's Health Is Not for Sale! Cut your ties to fossil fuel!

Narrator: You see, Gov Baker, you have plenty of help to cut your ties to fracked gas money. Now your hands are free to protect the health of the children of Massachusetts and truly commit to a livable future for everyone.

Baker puts arms around children. All applaud

Below: props include string of money and large scale paper scissors

