

**EXHIBIT "A"**

July 25, 2016

**VIA E-MAIL**

Senator Bernie Sanders

**RE: S2012**

Dear Senator Sanders:

This letter is sent on behalf of the more than 50 grassroots organizations from the various states identified at the end of this letter, all of which organize in opposition to fracked gas pipeline projects targeting their states and communities.

We write to you because you are a vehement opponent of the use of fracked gas and a Senator on the conference committee that will attempt to reconcile S2012 with the House version of this legislation. We have a number of concerns with S2012, including the following:

- (1) The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) already has too much, and states too little, authority over the approval of “natural” (fracked) gas pipeline projects. This is all the more a concern because the FERC is a known “rocket-docket,” “rubber-stamping” agency which has rarely met a pipeline it did not like. Yet S2012 seems to even further limit state authority in FERC processes: while states may still deny permitting required under FERC, the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and other federal statutes, such denials appear harder to make, and to make stick; and even greater deference and binding authority appears to be given to the determinations of FERC.
- (2) The following and other language of S2012 suggests even greater expedition of FERC dockets and pipeline project approval: "It is the sense of Congress that all Federal authorizations required for a project or facility should be issued by not later than the date that is 90 days after the date on which an application is considered to be complete by the Commission." Similar provisions under consideration call for expedited decisions on applications to export liquefied natural gas.
- (3) The House version of S2012 contains the following provision, 1101(d):  
*(d) Remote Surveys.—If a Federal or State agency considering an aspect of an application for Federal authorization requires the applicant to submit environmental data, the agency shall consider any such data gathered by aerial or other remote means that the applicant submits. The agency may grant a conditional approval for Federal authorization, conditioned on the verification of such data by subsequent onsite inspection.*  
This whittling away of private property rights and privacy rights must be halted. This provision resulted from gas lobbying effort which we fear will find its way into the conference committee, for it plainly seems intended to facilitate FERC approvals even more: for example, the Army Corps of Engineers currently requires on-the-ground-surveys for 401 water permitting.

Please bear in mind our concerns when considering this legislation in the conference committee, and please do not support any final version of this legislation unless you are convinced that it will be good forward-thinking energy legislation which encourages renewable development and will not continue to “grease the skids” for fossil fuel. We would love to communicate with you further concerning this matter, and would greatly appreciate it if you would contact [RMHusband@gmail.com](mailto:RMHusband@gmail.com) in this regard.

Sincerely,

MARYLAND

Brandywine/TB Southern Region Neighborhood Coalition

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts PipeLine Awareness Network (MassPLAN), StopNED, No Fracked Gas in Mass, Berkshire Environmental Action Team, Pipe Line Awareness Network for the Northeast, Inc. (PLAN-NE), The Enviro Show, South Coast Neighbors United, Inc., Earthlands a Special Project of the Institute for Environmental Awareness, North Quabbin Pipeline Action, Grassroots Against Another Salem Power Plant, Millers River Watershed Council, NoStoughtonGasPipeline, Mothers Out Front Massachusetts, ConwayPLAN, Compressor and Pipeline Opposition in Windsor (CaPOW)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire PipeLine Awareness Network (NHPLAN), ECHO Action: #FossilFree603 (NH), Stop The NH Pipeline: Monadnock Region (NH), Earth Dancer School: Dance And Nature Centered Education (NH), NH Pipeline Health Study Group, Greenville NH Pipeline Resistance, Litchfield Pipeline Group, Pelham Pipeline Awareness Outreach Subcommittee, Rindge Pipeline Awareness, Merrimack Citizens for Pipeline Information, Mason Pipeline Committee

NEW JERSEY

Roseland Against the Compressor Station (RACS)

NEW YORK

Otsego 2000, Inc., Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion, Peacemakers of Schoharie County, NY, Citizens Energy and Economics Council of Delaware County, NY (CEEC), Grassroots Environmental Education, Milford Doers/Residents of Crumhorn Mtn., Sustainable Otsego, Bethlehem Ecodefense, Middlefield Neighbors, Concerned Residents of Oxford, Stop the NY Fracked Gas Pipeline (SNYFGP), ChenangoDelaware Otsego Gas Drilling Opposition Group (CDOG), The Sustainable McDonough Group, Plymouth Friends of Clean Water, People Not Pipelines, New York Climate Action Group, STP Steering Committee, ROAR Against Fracking

OHIO

Sustainable Medina County, Fresh Water Accountability Project (FWAP)

PENNSYLVANIA

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability

VERMONT

Toxics Action Center, Upper Valley Affinity Group, Protect Geprags Park, 350VT Upper Valley Node, Central Vermont Climate Action