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Dear Energy Board member:

I strongly urge The New York State Energy Board to revise its 2009 NYS Energy Plan to exclude any and all provisions that allow Atlantic Sea Island Group's "Safe Harbor Energy" project to build an artificial island 13.5 miles off the shore of Long Island. The purpose of this island will be a depot for the importation of LNG from foreign countries. Natural gas is a fossil fuel that emits slightly less carbon dioxide than petroleum, but the process of converting it to liquid for transport, shipping it in tankers and regasifying gives LNG a carbon footprint that is 20%-40% greater than that of domestic natural gas.

Safe Harbor Energy intends to lay approximately 12.8 miles of pipeline four feet below the ocean's floor from the terminal to meet an existing pipeline that extends from Morgan, New Jersey to Long Beach, Long Island. This existing pipeline is already being used at its capacity. Bringing in another pipeline to meet the existing one will not bring in more natural gas, but will displace domestic natural gas with foreign gas.

This will be the first artificial island, designed specifically for the import, storage, re-gasification and distribution of LNG in this country. A similar island was proposed off the coast of California, but the California Land Commission vetoed it because they found it extremely dangerous. Closer to home, the Broadwater project to situate a LNG barge 9 miles from the north shore of Long Island was rejected.

The environmental impact study is underway. Before the study is complete, the NYS Energy Planning Board must take a stance against the Safe Harbor Energy proposal.

I respectfully request that the NYS Energy Planning Board remove all provisions from its Plan that include the importation of LNG. Specifically, please revise the Plan so that Atlantic Sea Island Group's Safe Harbor Energy Project is not a consideration for New York State's energy future.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please keep me updated as to the status of this request.

Thank you,

Matthew Kohut