

Conservation matters

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Vermont Yankee The Costs Of Nuclear

Driving North on Route 119 towards Brattleboro, Vermont, you'll inevitably pass the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant, a boiling water reactor facility on the banks of the Connecticut River. One of the oldest nuclear generators in the country, the aged plant is currently the center of a major debate about its future. Its owner, Mississippi-based Entergy Corporation, seeks to extend operation well beyond the plant's planned closing and license termination date in 2012. CLF is at the forefront of the debate questioning the economic benefits of continued operation. It also begs a much larger question: *What role does nuclear power play in our collective energy future?* >



Vermont Yankee — The Costs of Nuclear

Vermont Yankee generates 620 megawatts of electricity, supplying about one-third of Vermont's power. Operational since 1972, the plant is scheduled to be decommissioned — a process of shutdown, clean up of radiation and subsequent demolition — in 2012 when it reaches the end of its current license.

The price tag for safely closing Vermont Yankee in 2012 has reached over \$900 million — more than twice the amount currently available in the plant's decommissioning fund. When Entergy purchased the plant in 2002, it took over responsibility for decommissioning but has not made any additional contributions to the fund. Now, Entergy is hoping that by continuing operation for an additional 20 years, the fund will act like a retirement account: build up over time and eventually cover the cost of cleanup down the road.

Although it wants to keep Vermont Yankee operating, Entergy has made no commitment to sell low-cost power to Vermont past 2012. Rather, current estimates suggest that Entergy will sell power at twice the price after 2012. If it won't sell low-cost power, CLF argues, there is little benefit to Vermonters from Vermont Yankee's continued operation.

Adding to the controversy are the repeated concerns over safety and reliability. Several accidents over the past two years have forced Vermont Yankee to shut down or reduce power. These events have ranged from leaks of radioactive water to a major collapse of the cooling towers in 2007. Nuclear plants of Yankee's generation — built in the early 70s — were designed for an average life of 30 years and are now showing serious signs of wear.

"These events have shaken the confidence of Vermonters and our neighbors in New Hampshire and Massachusetts about the safety and reliability of the plant," said Gov. Douglas following the tower collapse. "They have brought into question whether Vermont Yankee should operate beyond its present operating license expiration date of 2012."

CLF's History with Nuclear

CLF has been an early, frequent and crucial figure in the nuclear energy debate. In the

1980s, CLF opposed the construction of a second nuclear unit at the Seabrook Station in New Hampshire. CLF's economic analysis effectively halted the project by showing that the plant would be exorbitantly expensive to maintain, and challenged conventional arguments from proponents who touted nuclear as cheap and safe sources of power. In 2001, CLF showed that a proposed "fire sale" of Vermont Yankee for \$10 million was a bad deal. As a result, the plant was auctioned and ratepayers received an additional \$170 million from the sale, a portion of which has been used to develop new renewable energy in Vermont.

Until recently, no new reactors were proposed or built in the U.S. This was in part because Seabrook II was proven to be economically unsound; it also had much to do with the safety concerns raised by two nuclear reactor disasters that occurred around that time: Three Mile Island in 1979 and Chernobyl in 1986. Today 439 nuclear power stations provide about 15 percent of the world's electricity. The U.S. share amounts to 103 stations and 20 percent of the country's electricity. The U.S. still generates more nuclear power than any other country, but most of these plants are aging and determinations about whether to decommission or continue operation for 16 plants — including five Entergy plants — will need to be made within 10 years.

CLF's primary focus in the proceedings of Vermont Yankee's future, like in the Seabrook analysis, are with the economics of the proposal and ensuring that any action results in a good deal for Vermont and New England.

The Costs of Nuclear

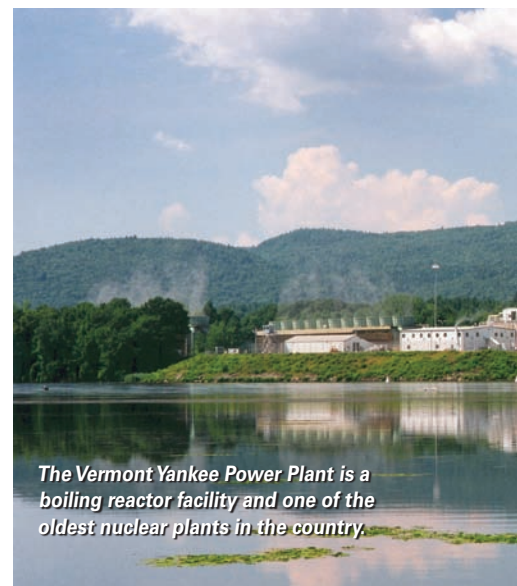
Many proponents insist that developing new nuclear plants is essential to reducing dependence on fossil fuels and curbing global warming pollution. Indeed, compared to fossil-fueled plants, nuclear energy is a low-carbon source of energy, and while in operation the plant has allowed the State of Vermont to have a low carbon footprint. But carbon emissions alone do not tell the full story. The economics and waste problems must be addressed.

Recent evaluations show that the cost of building and maintaining new nuclear

facilities vastly exceeds what the industry has traditionally predicted. Duke Energy recently revealed that the estimated cost of its proposed two-reactor facility in South Carolina tops \$11 billion *before* factoring in financing costs. Other reports put the average cost at \$7 billion and \$9 billion for each 1,100 MW plant and recognize that even these cost estimates are uncertain at best. Costs are bound to inflate to nearly three-times higher than predicted once owners factor in the price of land, interest during construction and likely cost escalation. And, the inevitable and unknown price for storing waste and closing plants down will leave exorbitant costs for the next generation.

To meet these costs, the nuclear industry will be dependent on government subsidies. Congress has set a limit of \$18.5 billion on the loan guarantees for new nuclear plants. An additional \$90 billion has been requested from the industry. With estimated costs that could exceed \$20 or \$30 billion per unit, even the higher guarantees will not be enough to build many new plants. If we are going to subsidize low-carbon generation of electricity, is our money better spent on nuclear power than on wind and solar? There must be a level playing field that doesn't inequitably benefit the nuclear industry.

There is still huge uncertainty regarding the long-term storage of nuclear waste, which remains harmful for over a thousand years. Historically, a federal nuclear waste repository was planned in Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The proposal for the repository was



The Vermont Yankee Power Plant is a boiling reactor facility and one of the oldest nuclear plants in the country.



Structural deficiencies have caused several accidents at the plant, like this collapse of a cooling tower in 2007.

Eric Gundersen

developed in 1987, and significant funding since then has been allocated for planning a site. Earlier this year, however, the Obama administration cut the funding for the project, stating that Yucca Mountain is “off the table” as a long-term storage solution. Now, there is no plan for a comprehensive nuclear waste repository. This means Vermont Yankee and other operational and decommissioned plants will spend large sums of money to keep dangerous nuclear waste stored on plant sites near capacity, as experts are still unable to agree upon an adequate solution for long-term disposal.

The uncertainty of long-term waste storage is hardly the image of a “safe and clean” energy source touted by proponents of nuclear energy. Building new nuclear facilities — and continued operation of Vermont Yankee — with no plan for waste disposal is ultimately irresponsible. Before we build more temporary storage vessels with the hope of securing long-term waste sites, we should consider cheaper, safer and cleaner options to meet our energy needs. Subsidizing dangerous waste and expensive electricity to the tune of tens of billions of dollars is not a solution we should be proud of.

CLF Challenges Vermont Yankee

With these costs and uncertainties in mind, CLF has made the case that the Entergy proposal to continue operation of Vermont Yankee is a bad deal for Vermont and our region. Rather than providing clean, affordable power for New England, the current proposal to continue operating Vermont Yankee for an additional 20 years leaves ratepayers with dangerously inadequate funds to shut down the plant, uncertain electricity prices, and growing piles of nuclear waste.

Entergy should be required to have the needed funds in place when the plant closes to responsibly clean up the site. It should provide strong financial assurances and a commitment from the parent company to make sure it is able to meet its financial obligations. From Enron to the collapse of the financial markets, we have seen enough empty promises. New England should not be left with the nuclear equivalent of a junk car in its back yard if it allows continued operation. Funds should be available to cover the cost of cleaning up the site quickly if the plant is forced to close early.

“No one wants to leave the responsibility for clean up to our children,” says CLF Senior Attorney Sandy Levine. “Vermont has sensible, real energy choices. We can choose to require Entergy to act responsibly. We can also choose to replace Vermont Yankee. The choices we make should be a good deal for Vermont and future generations.”

Because Entergy has made no commitment to sell low cost power to Vermont, it is seeking special and more favorable treatment. Other generation facilities, including new wind projects, have been required to sell power to Vermonters on favorable terms as a means to offset the burden of hosting the plant. Vermont should not give a better deal to nuclear facilities than it gives to clean, new renewable power. Vermont

needs a power contract that guarantees low priced power for Vermont from Vermont Yankee to allow a level playing field for continued operation of Vermont Yankee.

Lastly, CLF contends, if Vermont Yankee doesn’t continue to operate, Vermont and New England still have viable sources of energy throughout the region. For example, Vermont utilities have real proposals for replacement power, including power from a 450 megawatt wind farm off the coast of Rhode Island ready to sign a long term contract. Replacing Vermont Yankee power doesn’t have to mean more global warming pollution or high electricity rates.

As a low-carbon source of energy, nuclear power can *only* be considered if the costs and benefits are a good deal for the region they serve. As with all sources of energy generation, proposed or in operation, CLF staunchly advocates for a fair evaluation of the costs and benefits. Whether it is the planned Cape Wind project or a power plant, the same critical evaluation is essential to determine whether the environmental and economic benefits outweigh the burdens.

➤ Visit CLF online to learn more. www.clf.org

WATER-CONSCIOUS ECO TIP WINS CLF'S GREAT GREEN GIVEAWAY

The votes are in and the tallies have been counted. Over 600 voters picked the winners of CLF's first-ever Great Green Giveaway!

The first prize — a professional family photo shoot from a renowned New England photographer — goes to **Paul Lauenstein**, from Sharon, MA. Paul's eco tip shared instructions for a beautiful lawn without the need for irrigation. His submission included a photo of his own attractive lawn as evidence that you don't need to waste water in order to maintain a healthy home landscape. Paul has been a local advocate for conserving water for the past seven years, and hopes that his win will draw awareness to the issue of wasteful water use during the summer months.

“You can have a great lawn without watering it,” Lauenstein said. “Lawns only need about one inch of water a week and most of that is supplied by New England's abundant rain.”

CLF selected 10 final entries, ranging from biking enthusiasts to energy efficiency advocates. The winners were selected by means of a public vote from the CLF website.

Visit www.clf.org to learn more and see other winners!



United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

CONVERSATION MATTERS

A dialogue between CLF advocates and President John Kassel



"In the past CLF has sometimes emphasized work in the energy area that focused on renewable energy and clean generation and at other times CLF has focused its energy work on efficiency. How do you see CLF striking that balance during your tenure as President?" — Seth Kaplan, Vice President for Climate Advocacy and Clean Energy and Climate Change Director



JK: Collectively, both renewable energy production and efficiency investments must be increased to create the energy future we need. And this must happen simultaneously in order to reap the benefits as soon as possible. CLF's role in this balance is to put our unique set of skills and perspective where they are most needed. Presently, our skills and savvy are needed to advance policy on renewable energy. We are also active in addressing energy use in the transportation sector. With passage of sweeping new federal energy policy we will have many new opportunities to address both sides of the balance. CLF can engage on all energy areas and we must remain nimble enough to tinker with the balance as we go along, in response to priorities and opportunities.

"Coming from Vermont, a state like Maine, that for many years has relied on its natural resources as a base for its economy — pulp and paper, commercial fishing, recreation and tourism — how do you see the challenge of climate change becoming an opportunity to engage public action and what role do you see CLF playing in seizing that opportunity?" — Sean Mahoney, Director of CLF's Maine Advocacy Center



JK: In my experience the biggest challenge in solving environmental problems is engaging the public about them. They must own a problem before they will act on it and create the political climate in which leaders will take action. This is easiest with small-scale, tangible problems and hardest with large-scale, hard-to-grasp problems. Climate change is the biggest of them all. However, the natural resources that the economies of all New England states depend on — some more than others — are going to be tangibly affected by climate change. That's a powerful motivator. Whether it's climate-related fishing declines, shrinking or loss of the ski and other snow-related industries, or decline in maple syrup production — the New England economy will suffer dramatic upheavals unless we do something about it fast. CLF is the environmental voice for New England and we can help people understand the threats facing our region. This is a natural theme for much of our communication and outreach work and a story we tell in much of our litigation and other advocacy.

"The changing climate presents an urgent threat to the environment, numerous species, global political stability, and potentially human survival, that it likely will supersede other environmental issues with which CLF is engaged. It is shaping the focus of our other advocacy efforts. How should CLF respond to this challenge and should CLF realign its priorities?" — Melissa Hoffer, Healthy Communities and Environmental Justice Director and Director of CLF's New Hampshire Advocacy Center



JK: We should seek to address climate change from many angles, because the challenge is huge and needs a multi-faceted solution, and because there is great opportunity for synergistic environmental benefits. For example, transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in New England. A more widespread and effective public transit system will reduce vehicle miles travelled, thereby reducing emissions, and also advance many other CLF environmental goals. People who rely on transit are more likely to live in compact, walkable neighborhoods, have a smaller carbon footprint, and have a smaller impact on other natural resource — such as water quality, wildlife habitat and agricultural resources. Climate change is such a large and immediate challenge that we must ensure we are doing what we can to address it, and I believe it gives us an opportunity to clarify our priorities, and focus on programs and initiatives that advance our climate goals and other goals as well. A "two-fer" is always a good idea — it's the most cost-effective way to advance our mission, and it builds collaboration both within our organization and with other groups.

"Some of CLF's most important work has involved our advocacy relating to the 'built environment,' that is, the urban places where most of us live. Whether that is protecting children from lead poisoning, development on the Boston waterfront, working on improving public transportation so we can commute without our cars, reducing toxic coal-fired utilities, or helping environmental justice advocates to win their cases, CLF has always been at the front line of that effort. Coming from a rural state like Vermont, rumored to have more cows than people, I am curious about your thoughts on CLF's urban agenda and its place in the organization's future." — Peter Shelley, Director of CLF's Massachusetts Advocacy Center



JK: CLF's goals are the same for all New Englanders wherever they live: a healthy and thriving natural environment, safe and vibrant communities, and a robust and sustainable economy that supports all of this. The opportunities presented to reach those

goals vary somewhat from rural parts of our region to our cities, but CLF's work in reaching those goals is very much the same. For example, how do we address high mercury levels in many fish species common in the waters of Northern New England? The same way we attack the causes of increased childhood asthma now quite common in urban communities — we push for cleaner cars, cleaner energy production and more regulatory oversight. I reject the idea, that achieving environmental standards in urbanized areas is impossible, too difficult, or somehow not really required. Furthermore, we have to make urban living not only environmentally tolerable but appealing, if we are to lower our collective carbon footprint in the way that we must.

“New England’s oceans have long been threatened by overfishing, coastal and deep sea habitat destruction, and pollution. And today the ocean is facing the new challenge of climate change which is impacting our ocean in ways we are only beginning to understand. As a long-time Vermonter, ocean management will present a new challenge for you but at the same time a wonderful opportunity for CLF to benefit from a fresh perspective. How do you see the opportunities and challenges in ocean conservation today?” — Priscilla Brooks, *Director of CLF’s Ocean Conservation Program*



JK: I start with recognizing that much is changing now. At the federal level there appears to be a deepening commitment to developing rules to promote ecologically based fisheries management, especially from the White House. This is very welcome news, and represents the kind of leadership that can enable parties to question some of their long-held views on the subject. The move toward catch-based management instead of a days-at-sea approach is very encouraging, as it enables fishermen to jettison behavior that leads to the “tragedy of the commons” that we (and they, of course) see in our marine environments. When paradigm-shifting events like this occur there is great opportunity. I see a large role for CLF Ventures, which is already developing (in cooperation with our Ocean Conservation Program) a permit-banking trust, much like a land trust for ocean habitats, that will help ensure sustainable yield.

“We now talk about our carbon footprints as easily as we talk about last night’s Red Sox/Yankees game, but there has been very little dialogue about solid waste management and addressing our waste footprints. The lack of dialogue on this issue has to change as our landfill space diminishes, our consumption increases, and time runs out on our collective ability to address the changing waste management landscape thoughtfully. In a small place like Rhode Island, the implications for failing to properly manage our waste have many direct and tangible impacts on our environment and our quality of life. I’m interested to know whether you see a role for CLF as

an advocate for sound and comprehensive waste management policies and if so, what are our opportunities?” — Tricia Jedelev, *Director of CLF’s RI Advocacy Center*



JK: We have not had a distinct programmatic focus on waste management for some time. However, we can and do address waste issues in connection with our existing programs and state-based advocacy centers. For example, we have recently seen renewed interest region-wide in burning some components of municipal solid waste, through a process of gasification that its proponents claim yields little to no toxicity, to produce electricity. There are clean energy issues here, as well as environmental health, water quality and a host of other issues. We must develop a broad-based, organization-wide policy on these new processes, because of their impacts on our existing programs. For that matter, the very issue of additional landfills in particular implicates CLF’s programmatic concerns — healthy communities, responsible land use, clean water — especially in a small state like Rhode Island. Since solid waste management is largely the province of state-level regulation and planning, I see waste management issues most often arising as matters of particular concern to our state offices and advisory boards, but easily linked to our overall programmatic goals. We should seize opportunities like those to promote sound waste management opportunities and, frankly, challenge each New England state to outdo their neighbors in that regard.

“Do you think that CLF can be relevant locally, statewide, regionally and nationally, and if so what can we do to make this happen?” — Chris Kilian, *Director of Clean Water Healthy Forests Program, and Vermont Advocacy Center Director.*



JK: CLF will be relevant at all of those levels as a result of doing the work we have strategically prioritized. In our Clean Energy and Climate Change program, for example, we’re working hard on the energy legislation now pending in Congress, defending the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative in New York State, pushing renewable energy measures in Rhode Island and other states, and supporting particular renewable energy projects located in specific places. In our Clean Water and Healthy Forests program we’re working with residents who use and enjoy local waterways to challenge stormwater polluters that foul those waterways, and also using that work to build a programmatic stormwater initiative that is a model for states, the region and the nation. So, our programmatic work has relevance at all levels and works in both directions — local to national and vice versa. In addition, our state advocacy centers are vital focal points for statewide and, in some cases, local issues. Coming from Vermont — a state with a strong sense of place — I understand how motivating place-based environmental challenges can be. It is a great strength of CLF’s that we can capitalize on that motivation, in support of our overall mission, and we will continue to do so.

Around the States

CLF's 2009 Challenge Match is Making Strides

As we near the July 31 deadline, CLF is thrilled with the progress of our Challenge Match. Over 380 of CLF's supporters have stepped up to the plate and participated in this exciting opportunity by making additional or increased gifts. To date, we have raised \$120,000 towards our goal of \$150,000! We have just \$30,000 left until we receive our match. **Help us meet the goal and raise \$300,000 today!**

Here's how you can participate:

Increase your annual donation. Any increase in your 2009 donation from what you gave in 2008 will be matched 100 percent. For example, if you gave \$300 last year and \$500 this year, the added \$200 would be matched.

Add to what you've already given. If you've already donated to CLF in 2009, consider giving again. Your additional gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar.

Make a new gift. If you haven't made a gift since 2007, any gift you make now will be considered brand new and will be matched 100 percent!

Recruit new donors. Pass this opportunity along to family and friends who are also concerned about New England's environment. Now could not be a better time to join CLF!

Thank you to everyone who has generously participated in this matching opportunity!

Please check out our fall edition of *Conservation Matters* for the final tally!

Visit www.clf.org/challengegrant to make your gift today!

CLF, States Clear a Path for Cleaner Cars

For more than 15 years CLF has fought for technological improvements to make cars cleaner and more efficient through smart regulation and incentives, advocating for New England states to adopt and enforce the tough auto emissions standards developed by the state of California. Now, President Obama has declared that he will approve California and 13 other states' efforts to reduce global warming pollution from cars and light trucks, and adopt those standards nationwide. This announcement was an affirming triumph for CLF and the New England states who have long fought for these same emissions standards for our region.

Working at this issue for so long gives us a unique perspective. U.S. automakers have a particular track record of recalcitrance toward clean car innovation. Many CLF staff can remember when auto makers decried today's emissions standards as "impossible to meet."

The long march towards cleaner cars took a definitive turn in 2001 when California initiated greenhouse gas emissions standards from cars. CLF participated in the California rulemaking process, arguing that it was essential the regulation be written in manner that allowed it to be easily adopted by other states. Working with local partners across the region, and opposed by intransigent car maker representatives at every turn, our advocacy helped lead to these standards being adopted in nearly every New England state.

We then had to face challenges to these regulations in court. Automakers, rather than bringing challenges to a larger state like Massachusetts, adopted a bullying litigation strategy by bringing lawsuits in

Vermont and Rhode Island.

This strategy began to unwind in 2007 when the states and environmental community — including CLF who was a supporting figure — won our landmark victory in Massachusetts vs. EPA in the U.S. Supreme Court. The Supreme Court decision announced principles that undermined many of the car companies' legal theories. Not long thereafter, after a trial in which the Vermont Attorney General's office was assisted by a raft of other states as well as an environmental intervener group organized by CLF, Federal District Judge Sessions dismissed the Vermont lawsuit. Building on this victory, and the victory of our allies in court in California, our staff was able to successfully argue for

dismissal of the Rhode Island lawsuit.

Along the way CLF helped fight for the EPA "waiver" decision needed to implement the tougher emissions rule — bringing progressive car dealers to Washington to testify and supporting efforts to fight for that waiver.

All appeals and other actions to challenge the regulations began to end when the chastened auto manufacturers signed an agreement with the Federal government to implement greenhouse gas regulation of cars.

Clearly, this wonderful result was the consequence of many forces and circumstances converging and the pressure brought to bear by the New England states and CLF. We are proud to have played a role in this story of putting standards in place that will reduce by as much as a third the greenhouse gas emissions from the cars in our streets.

Seth Kaplan is CLF's Vice President for Climate Advocacy.

"CLF applauds Rhode Island, Vermont, and the other New England states that bore the brunt of the four-year legal campaign mounted by the automobile industry to block these standards. Despite being outnumbered and outgunned, our states won in federal courts and now they have won for the whole country. This is a tremendous victory."

— John Kassel, CLF President



A proposed high-speed rail network will connect major portions of New England, cut pollution, and boost the region's economy.

New England Onboard For More Rail

After decades of little investment in passenger and freight rail by the federal government, President Obama and his administration have made the development of high-speed and intercity rail a top priority for improving our nation's transportation system.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) allocates nearly \$10 billion for passenger rail, and has provided a strong incentive for different regions to compete for federal funding. In New England, the push to put rail on each governor's agenda has come from the New England Rail Coalition (NERC), a diverse coalition of interest groups that CLF has spearheaded. By encouraging cooperation among the New England states to develop a regional rail blueprint, NERC is helping craft a vision for sustainable regional growth that is built around rail transportation.

New England already benefits from an established network of freight and commuter rail systems, but has lacked the vision necessary to redirect development and financing away from highways and back to railways. By bringing

together businesses, municipalities, elected officials, environmental groups, and transportation and planning entities, NERC has strategically reached out to the Obama administration, the re-

gion's congressional delegation, and the six New England governors in advocating for a renewed commitment to rail.

A serious investment in rail would benefit New England in many ways. Investing in high-speed rail from Boston to Montreal and securing federal funds for the New Hampshire Capital Corridor,

which would connect Boston to Nashua, Bedford, Manchester and Concord, would boost the region's economy and lay the foundation for long-term transit-oriented growth. Improvements to the popular Downeaster, Acela and Knowledge Corridor services would also increase ridership across the region, thereby decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. In spearheading the NERC's multi-faceted approach to rail, CLF has again proven its commitment to building healthier communities and protecting New England's environment.

"A number of critical opportunities exist in the region to build a rail system that strengthens each of the New England states, and that better integrates the region not only with the rest of the country, but also with Canada," said Tom Irwin, a senior attorney with CLF. "Our hope is that economic stimulus funds will be allocated to many of these projects, to begin the process of building a world class, sustainable transportation system for New England."

— Tom Irwin, CLF Senior Attorney

Have you visited CLF's NEW Web site?

This spring CLF unveiled major changes to the look of our site. If you haven't already, we encourage you to visit us online at **www.clf.org**!

There, you can find the latest news and information about CLF cases, and have the chance to join our mailing list for newsletters and opportunities for action on the issues you care about.

Visit **www.clf.org** and stay tuned for exciting new developments in the months ahead!





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CLF RELIES ON YOUR SUPPORT to protect New England's natural resources and communities. Give your region a healthier future by becoming a member of CLF.

CLF members understand that threats to the environment are complex, requiring sophisticated, innovative solutions. Join the growing number of people whose support makes a critical difference in preserving New England's environment.

As a member of CLF, you will receive *Conservation Matters*, our quarterly journal that explores the region's most pressing environmental issues; CLF's monthly e-mail newsletter that keeps you up to date with CLF's latest news; and invitations to special member events. You also have the opportunity to join CLF's active and engaged online community by participating in Action Alerts and other vital online campaigns.

To join CLF, please use the enclosed envelope or visit us on the Web at www.clf.org/donate. Thank you!

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c o n s e r v a t i o n m a t t e r s

CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION WORKS TO SOLVE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS THAT THREATEN NEW ENGLAND. CLF'S ADVOCATES USE LAW, ECONOMICS AND SCIENCE TO CREATE INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES TO CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES, PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND PROMOTE VITAL COMMUNITIES IN OUR REGION. FOUNDED IN 1966, CLF IS A NONPROFIT, MEMBER-SUPPORTED ORGANIZATION.

Fishing Community Advocate, Long-time Partner To CLF, Receives Honorary Degree

Angela Sanfilippo began her career as an advocate for fishing and fishing families in 1977 when she answered a call from the Gloucester fishing community to translate important materials from English to Italian for Gloucester fishermen. Since then, for nearly four decades, Sanfilippo has been a leading force behind local, national and global efforts to sustain the economies and safety of commercial fishing. Serving for 32 years as President of the Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association, she was recently awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters Honorary Degree from Salem State College in recognition of her decades-long leadership in the Gloucester and Massachusetts' fishing communities and of her efforts to protect the ocean environment.

"I have known Angela since 1978 when we joined hands to fight the threat that oil and gas development presented to the fishermen of Gloucester and the region," said CLF's Peter Shelley, who was a legal intern at CLF at that time. "She has brought a resolve and intelligence to her fisheries advocacy that we can all learn from and be inspired by. Like any partnership, we have fought and disagreed over some issues over the years—particularly around fisheries management issues—but there has never



Angela Sanfilippo, President of Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association with CLF Vice President Peter Shelley

been any disagreement over the importance of her voice for fishermen or the respect we have extended to her opinions. Angela earned this academic honor many times over in the trenches of public policy debates, albeit not the classroom."

Sanfilippo came to Gloucester in 1963 from Sicily. Her strong support for the protection of the ocean environment and for fishing families, has taken her around the world to help communities protect their fishing heritage.

Over the years she's attended international conferences in India and France, and visited fishing communities in Japan.

Sanfilippo has also traveled to communities in the United States to improve the safety of commercial fishing and address fishing regulations. In 1998 she was invited by President Clinton to attend the Year of the Ocean Conference. Joining with CLF and others at this conference, Sanfilippo pushed for and helped obtain an additional 10 year moratorium on oil drilling on Georges Bank.

CLF is very proud and honored by Angela Sanfilippo's commitments, accomplishments, and sacrifices on behalf of all fishing people, their families, and the preservation of New England's fishing heritage.

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