



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MARGARET WOOD HASSAN  
Governor

July 10, 2014

N. Jonathan Peress  
Vice President and Director, Clean Energy and Climate Change  
Conservation Law Foundation  
27 N. Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Attorney Peress:

Thank you for your June 13 letter concerning the increasing volume of fuels derived from "tar sands" that are being delivered to the New England states and Eastern Canadian provinces.

The agenda for the upcoming 38th Annual New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers conference has already been finalized. As a result, there is insufficient time to include these matters as a formal topic on our agenda.

However, because this topic is of significant importance to the region and to New Hampshire, I will direct my representatives on the appropriate committees to raise these issues in the coming year.

In addition, it is worth noting that both New Hampshire and the region have already started to work on this critical issue.

Last year, I called on United States Secretary of State Kerry to require the State Department to conduct a thorough environmental and permitting process before allowing any existing pipelines in New Hampshire to transport tar sands oil.<sup>1</sup> I believe that any proposal for the transport of these products through must only be done in a way that protects New Hampshire's economy and environment.

I was also pleased to sign into law three bills this legislative session related to pipeline transportation of crude oil, and the potential for transportation of oil/tar sands through our state via pipeline or rail.

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.governor.nh.gov/media/news/2013/pr-2013-04-22-tar-sands.htm>

House Bill 1224 requires the NH Public Utilities Commission to apply annually to the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation for the authority and funding for the state to conduct pipeline safety and operations compliance inspections on behalf of PHMSA on hazardous liquids pipelines, including the Portland-Montreal Pipeline, which traverses five northern New Hampshire communities.

I was also proud to sign Senate Bill 325, which requires owners of interstate oil pipeline facilities to submit comprehensive spill response plans to the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES).

Finally, House Bill 1376 establishes a legislative study committee to conduct a comprehensive review of the safety of oil and gas transportation in our state via pipelines, railroads, and highways. The bill specifically calls for a review of the safety of existing pipelines in New Hampshire, and the safety record of railroad and highway transportation of oil and gas in our state and several northeastern states. It also calls for a review of the adequacy of state and municipal emergency planning for spills, leaks, fires, and explosions caused by oil or gas accidents.

Taken together, these bills will significantly improve New Hampshire's understanding of the potential risks associated with increased transportation of oil sands products within our state, strengthen both our authority and capacity to properly monitor and regulate such transportation, and help us to evaluate our readiness to respond to emergencies.

At the regional level, in coordination with the Northeastern States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM), the regional association of northeastern state air agency directors), we are working to develop tools necessary to track the carbon intensity of petroleum fuels entering the region.

I appreciate your organizations' concern for the potential impacts that our changing regional fuel supplies may have, and I look forward to working with you and other partners in the northeastern states and eastern Canadian provinces to ensure that our changing fuel supply is safe and is managed in an environmentally responsible way.

With every good wish,



Margaret Wood Hassan  
Governor

N. Jonathan Peress

7/10/2014

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cc:

Governor Dannel Malloy, Connecticut, Vice-Chair  
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Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York  
Governor Lincoln Chafee, Rhode Island  
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Premier Tom Marshall, Newfoundland & Labrador  
Premier Stephen McNeil, Nova Scotia  
Premier Robert Ghiz, Prince Edward Island  
Premier Phillipe Couillard, Quebec  
David Stember, Regional Tar Sands Organizer, 350.org  
Bob Klotz, Tar Sands Team Co-coordinator, 350 Maine  
Maeve McBride, Coordinator, 350 Vermont  
Susan Arnold, Vice President for Conservation, Appalachian Mountain Club  
Michael J. Bartlett, President, Audubon Society of New Hampshire  
Dorian Sosnick Williams, Climate Legacy Coordinator, Better Future Project  
Mollie Matteson, Senior Scientist, Center for Biological Diversity  
Lois Corbett, Executive Director, Conservation Council of New Brunswick  
Andrea Harden-Donahue, Energy and Climate Justice Campaigner, Council of Canadians  
Catherine Abreu, Energy Coordinator, Ecology Action Center  
Adam Scott, Climate & Energy Program Manager, Environmental Defence Canada  
Emily Figdor, Director, Environment Maine  
Mark LeBel, Staff Attorney, ENE (Environment Northeast)  
Stephen Guilbeault, Co-founder and Senior Director, Équiterre  
Matthew Abbott, Fundy Baykeeper  
Keith Stewart, Climate and Energy Campaign Coordinator, Greenpeace Canada  
Jim Murphy, Senior Counsel, National Wildlife Federation  
Dylan Voorhees, Clean Energy Director, Natural Resources Council of Maine  
Danielle Droitsch, Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council  
Catherine M. Corkery, Chapter Director, New Hampshire Sierra Club  
Glen Brand, Chapter Director, Sierra Club Maine  
Jeremy Martin, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Union of Concerned Scientists  
Johanna Miller, Energy Program Director, Vermont Natural Resources Council  
Mark Nelson, Chair, Vermont Sierra Club