

CP13-83

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 19, 2016

OFFICE OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

2016 AUG 30 P 4:42

FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

Chairman Norman Bay
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Bay,

As a follow up to a previous letter this past March, today we write again regarding the underground natural gas storage project slated for construction in New York's Schuyler County. We understand that you have approved the two year extension requested by Arlington Storage Company to construct the Gallery 2 jurisdictional facilities without opening up for the public comment period we suggested. We would like to restate the concerns raised by our constituents since the Commission's issuance of the construction certificate in 2014. These include the adverse impacts this project could have on public health, safety, the environment and quality of life currently enjoyed by many in this area. In addition, the federal government is considering new regulations to address the safety of natural gas storage that, if applied to this facility, could have substantial impact on a variety of constituent concerns and the way this facility would operate. We are also aware that many of our constituent groups including Gas Free Seneca, Finger Lakes Wine Business Coalition, Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association, and many surrounding town and counties have come together to file an appeal to FERC halting this project until the serious environmental and safety issues they have raised are properly addressed. We ask that you give this appeal appropriate and thorough consideration.

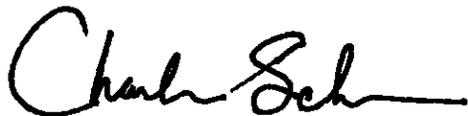
Arlington's project is located in salt caverns adjacent to Seneca Lake, the largest glacial lake of New York's Finger Lakes region. One very important factor to consider is that Seneca Lake provides clean drinking water for 100,000 residents living in the area, and is relied on for recreational opportunities in one of the most highly-trafficked tourist destinations in upstate New York. We continue to hear well-argued concerns about the economic effects this project could have on the region, including the burgeoning Finger Lakes wine industry, which has become a major driver of the region's economy and tourism.

Originally, the project scope was open for public comment, but without this process repeated for the two-year extension request, this appeal filed was the only avenue to highlight the significant public opposition to this project. New concerns have been raised and the conclusions in the Quantitative Risk Analysis have been questioned for being true and independent results. Considering this appeal would give pause to this project and allow for much needed clarity and impartial risk analysis for the caverns in question. This would help the Finger Lakes community get answers to their concerns while also allowing new safety information learned from current events involving underground gas storage like the four month leak at Aliso Canyon, to be addressed as well. We strongly urge FERC to give this appeal full consideration and allow these concerned citizens the opportunity to make their voices heard.

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Thank you for your consideration of this request. We ask that you give this letter and all the concerns brought forth by the community your full attention as the Commission makes its decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Sch" with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Charles Schumer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirsten Gillibrand" in a cursive style.

Kirsten Gillibrand

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