NATIVE VOICES SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

"You are our representatives, only the people are the voice. Listen, listen to your heart. Listen to us as a people, and take a deep breath, look at our home, feel it, and love it."

-Maggie Paul, addressing the Chief and Council

"LNG does not belong in our environment. It is not something I want my grandchildren and great-grandchildren to live with. They deserve to live in a clean and safe environment."

-Joan Barnes

"I feel that LNG is the furthest thing away from what it means to think, act, live like a Passamaquoddy."

-Melissa Francis

"The process is the most undemocratic process I've ever witnessed. It was posted for four days. A lot of people were working in the blueberry barrens or doing other summer stuff... We were basically railroaded into this by the tribal leaders and the state government... The losses outweigh the gains. What I see is a bunch of guys in Tulsa getting dirty rich... It's not a done deal. It ain't over till it's over."

-David Bridges, quoted from Northern Sky News, November 2004

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"A MONSTER IS TRYING TO GET INTO SIPAYIK."

DEANNA FRANCIS, Passamaquoddy Tribal Elder and traditional healer

"ST. MARY’S FIRST NATION"

Fredericton, New Brunswick (from a press release by Candice Paul, Chief, November 23, 2004) St. Mary’s First Nation Fisheries, an alliance of Native fishers practicing their inherent right to fish, gather, trade, and travel, assert our intent to challenge any hindrance of which jeopardizes our access and right to a safe and healthy environment conducive to subsistence within our ancestral waters —otherwise known as Passamaquoddy Bay. St. Mary’s First Nation Fisheries aims to address the human and ecological health impacts brought on by unsustainable energy development practices, which affect our traditional and commercial fisheries before they become problematic. This precautionary principle is in keeping with our responsibility to protect the environment that has for thousands of year’s sustained indigenous people.

“It’s a given that developing energy projects has been at the expense of Native peoples, which has always left our communities devastated and living in distress. We need to change these mindsets that clouds Native leadership to think we could become partners with industries that violate the earth and still maintain our cultural and spiritual integrity,” said John Brooks, a native fisher and a proponent for indigenous collective rights.

The sovereignty of St. Mary’s First Nation should not be jeopardized by industries plagued with environmental risks and uncertainties. The potential for super tankers passing through critical and sensitive ecological areas of the ocean and coastal area could cause devastation to our fishery grounds and water systems. St. Mary’s First Nation recognizes the rich cultural and biological heritage of this beautiful land and waters. Super tankers laden with potentially hazardous cargo brings with it a history of spills that could destroy this environment and ruin the traditional food systems of indigenous people. Therefore, St. Mary’s First Nation Fisheries affirms our collective right to prevent unsustainable energy development projects from threatening native peoples health and ways of life.
QUESTION OF: The proposed liquid natural gas (LNG) terminal and re-gassification plant proposed for Gleason Cove, Maine.

The Mayor and Town Council of the Municipality of St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada
- Cherish the natural wonders of Passamaquoddy Bay.
- Base its economy and way of life on the ecologically sensitive Bay of Fundy.
- Honour the fisheries, tourism and the natural wonders that make our area special.
- Support growth in the economy but not at the expense of the social and environmental underpinnings that make our region what it is.

The Mayor and Town Council of the Municipality of St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada

Call upon: all citizens to rally around this common cause in ensuring the powers that be hear our concerns,

Urge: our elected officials both Provincial and Federal to ensure that the way of life we all enjoy is not jeopardized by the construction of an LNG terminal and re-gassification facility in Gleason Cove, Maine,

Further urge: the people of Pleasant Point, Maine, to reconsider their actions to date and make informed and socially meaningful decisions,

Stress: That the Mayor and Town Council of St. Andrews, New Brunswick do not support heavy industrialization which will only impact negatively on our economy, social fabric and environmental uniqueness and say no to the construction of a [sic] LNG terminal and re-gassification plant in Gleason Cove, Maine.

The same proclamation has been repeated in other Canadian communities around Passamaquoddy Bay including Campobello Island, Deer Island, St. Stephens, Grand Manan Island, and Blacks Harbor.
Believing that the true measure of leadership is the match up of a person’s words and actions, we appeal to you to rise to the standard of leadership you declared in your inaugurations address, your vision materials and in your first budget address. It is this leadership that is needed in our state now as the threat of the big LNG gas plant haunts our coastlines, terrorizes our beaches, and splits our neighborhoods and communities. We of the Save Passamaquoddy Bay Alliance ask you to live out your words.

From your inaugural address:

“Tonight, as I stand before the people of Maine, grateful for the faith you’ve shown in me, humbled by the enormous task before us, and determined not only to serve the people of Maine, but to help move our state toward greatness…”

“Our state can become a leader in providing opportunities in jobs, business, and health while preserving and protecting our natural resources.”

“It’s more that just the ups and downs of business, the economy, profit and loss, numbers on a spreadsheet. It’s people. It’s families. It’s community.”

“Tonight I pledge to the people in this room and to those listening at home, to do everything I can to make my time in office special to the people of Maine. The task before us may be above the talents of any one individual, but it is not above the combined talents of Maine and its people.”

From your Vision Statement:

“The natural world around us in Maine, and the way we use it, shape what we know as Maine’s way of life. My overall goal is nothing less than to preserve our natural legacy, to undo past damage and to build a truly sustainable Maine way of life.”

From your Budget Address:

“Fishing, farming, aquaculture, forestry and tourism face serious challenges today that threaten their long-term viability. These industries play an important role in the economy and culture of Maine’s rural communities.”

“The citizens of Maine want to look to the future…Maine people are watching and waiting, and we can’t let them down…”

All of the above quotations are the words of Gov. John Baldacci
ON NOVEMBER 30th, members of our Alliance traveled to Augusta to present our objections to siting an LNG terminal in Gleason Cove, Pleasant Point. We had expected to meet with Governor Baldacci, since his spokesman had said during the Gulf of Maine Conference that the Governor would welcome opposition members to meet him in his office. We did meet with top policy advisor, Alan Starn. At the conclusion of our meeting, we left the following questions for the Governor and other government officials. These are questions to which we all await answers.

GOVERNOR JOHN BALDACCI: Since the onset of LNG being promoted along the coast of Maine, you have stated publicly that you will not locate a terminal in a community that objects to having it within their locale. With intense objections from the communities to be affected by the proposed terminal in Gleason Cove at Pleasant Point, will you now remove your support for this project, halt further discussions about a terminal at this site, and direct Quoddy Bay LLC to cease pursuit of this project immediately?

JACK CASHMAN, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
The proposal to site an LNG terminal in Gleason’s Cove at Pleasant Point carries with it immense economic ramifications related to the entire economy downeast—fisheries, tourism operations, retail businesses. Also, huge economic requirements related to such facilities—movement of homes, businesses, schools, bridges, roads, airports, parks, cemeteries and other sacred areas—would ensue should such a project come about. In addition, security on land, at sea, and in the air would also have dramatic costs. What form of financial analysis and projections has your department performed to assess the financial implications related to this proposed siting for not only downeast, but for the state of Maine? What are the costs and benefits of LNG in Maine?

Prior to coming to state government service, you had a career of nearly 25 years in the real estate and insurance businesses. With this background, imagine that you were still a real estate agent and insurance broker living and doing business within a 50-mile radius of Gleason Cove at Pleasant Point. What exact advice would you be offering related to property values, sale and purchase of real estate, and obtaining insurance of all types should an LNG terminal and its affiliated industrial operations be sited at that location?

BETH NAGUSKY, OFFICE OF ENERGY AND SECURITY
On August 30, 2004, in the Bangor Daily News article titled “Energy office still strapped for plan”, you are quoted as saying, “We don’t have one statute that sets forth a state energy policy.” This being the case, how can the state of Maine and your department introduce and promote huge projects such as LNG without a statewide energy policy? What has been done to determine the impact of such sites on the state as a whole? What costs may come with these projects? And, what terror and homeland security risks does Maine take on should an LNG operation come into our state?

MICHAEL CANTARA, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY
What is your determination of public safety of people living downeast near the proposed LNG terminal in Gleason Cove at Pleasant Point in relation to the James Fay safety report? With natural gas explosions that have happened worldwide, what have you learned about the impacts of such accidents? What have you learned about the fact that the greatest death and/or injury has come to fire and safety employees located onsite as first responders? What have you researched as the threats to the safety of persons and property along the tanker routes as well as in the terminal areas?

DAWN GALLAGHER, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Are you in possession of the Pittston Oil Refinery Environmental Protection Agency report related to placement of a oil terminal in Eastport in the mid 1970s? What findings in that report are still true in 2004? Are you in possession of the business plan for the proposed Irving LNG terminal in St. John in which environmental issues related to land, sea, air, flora and fauna, toxins, sound and light pollution are all outlined?

GEORGE LAPOINTE, DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
You are well versed on the fisheries and related economics of marine resources in Passamaquoddy Bay. What do you see as the impact of an LNG terminal of the marine economy in this area? What are the species that could be affected by the ramifications of this proposal? What nursery areas would be affected? What would be the effect on water temperatures in fish for various species? What endangered species would be affected? What would be the impact of this project on inland waters and marine resources in places such as Little River, Boyden’s Lake and Penknife Lake?

PATRICK MCGOWAN, DEPARTMENT OF CONVERSATION
With the area proposed for the LNG terminal being one of the oldest cultural centers in Maine, with sacred Native sites and historic and still active cemeteries in the area, what research has your department done to inform the state of Maine and the Governor about the historical and cultural significance of the LNG target area?

JOHN NICHOLAS, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
What research is available in your department related to the stress presented to area residents when an LNG terminal is threatened to be located, or is located, in their midst? What work has been done with children in locations under consideration? What services are available for persons who may be displaced from their homes and communities when large LNG industrial sites are created?

LAURA FORTMAN, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
What analysis and projections has your department undertaken related to the exact number of jobs that this type of facility says it will create in relation to the existing jobs which will be eliminated and/or negatively affected? What are the actual jobs projected and the qualifications required for these jobs? What number of jobs will require union membership?

DAVID COLE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
What has your department projected for additional, altered, or eliminated transportation requirements related to this LNG project? Who exactly will pay for any transportation related costs? What has your department analyzed related to transportation issues at sea? Who exactly will pay for any related costs? What has your department analyzed related to use of Eastport airport should this project go forward? What type of plan do you see for evacuation routes by land or sea as you analyze the worst case scenario for this project - especially related to Eastport’s one and only route past the proposed terminal site?

MARTHA FREEMAN, STATE PLANNING OFFICE
What exact planning process has your department engaged in related to LNG anywhere in Maine, and in relation to the proposed terminal at Pleasant Point? How does bringing heavy industrial operations into Maine relate to Maine’s Creative Economy initiatives, and to Maine’s overall predominant image and position as an environmentally and ecologically distinctive area in the world?

With 115,000 jobs and $8.9 billion in direct and indirect dollars from tourism (2001 statistics), and with 63% of the visitors to Maine coming to tour the state, enjoy Maine’s outdoors, or for a beach vacation, how do LNG industrial sites fit into the image which Maine promotes as “The way life should be.”

ARTHUR CLEAVES, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
At a public meeting of the local Emergency Management team in Eastport, it was clear that huge expectations to handle a wide range of possible emergencies would fall to local volunteers. How do you see this being possible? Who will pay for these services? How can volunteers possibly be expected to be adequately trained for the range of emergencies related to LNG and its add on industrial location demands? Who pays for all of the extra safety equipment which will be needed in neighboring communities? What is the exact listing of emergencies that will need to be prepared for should this project go forward?

MICHAEL FINNEGAN, MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY
What role has Maine State Housing played in the development of the Cuspes Park Housing Development approved by the Passamaquoddy Tribal Council on November 17th? Are you aware that this same housing project land was proposed as the site for the LNG terminal on November 18th? How do you justify Maine State Housing’s role in this dual approach? What taxpayer dollars would be affected?

DORA MILLS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
In midsummer, Quoddy Bay LLC took members of the tribal council and other representatives of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, including Save Passamaquoddy Bay Alliance member David Moses Bridges, to view a terminal and industrial site similar to the one proposed for Gleason Cove. Locally, this area is known as “cancer alley.” What has your department done to analyze the relationship of LNG sites on human health?