

Dear Sirs:

The St. Lawrence Natural gas pipeline project in Franklin County requires \$6.8M to capitalize its \$20 M project. The Public Service Commission has authorized SLNG a 7.6% return on a \$13M rate base. The difference must be made up to materialize this project.

Substantial investment is at stake: a \$130M ethanol plant; a \$20M expansion for our major private sector employer (McCaddam Cheese); and \$50M in other private sector investment from foreign direct investment into Franklin County (Flanagan Hotel, Asept Pak Inc., Clyvanor, St. Georges Doors, etc. In fact the viability of McCaddams presence in Franklin County is at stake.

Northern Franklin County is the most urbanized portion of the state without natural gas. A cost benefit analysis conducted by the Center for Government Research (CGR) indicated that given the savings to the state (i.e. 3 NYS prisons in Franklin County would provide an annual savings of \$15M annually) and 20 new jobs created annually would provide NYS with an actual return on its cash investment in 5 years.

This pipeline project is the Franklin County legislators priority project (next to broadband). The democratic majority had these two positive outcomes as part of their campaign literature. Senators Little, Griffo and Assembly persons Duprey and Aubertine have pledged their support to this project

This project is a must above all else. Please provide this project with the priority funding support it needs.

Thank you

Very Respectfully submitted

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