



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF AMHERST SUPPORTS:

ARTICLE 30: RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED TGP PIPELINE

Article 30 would put Town Meeting on record as opposing the construction of the proposed Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Company (TGP) pipeline across western Massachusetts and other similar fracked natural gas pipelines and as opposing any tariff on Massachusetts ratepayers to fund construction of the pipeline.

Construction of the proposed TGP pipeline would cut an environmentally destructive path across productive farmland, forests, and conservation land in western Massachusetts. It would also lock in dependence on fracked natural gas for many decades.

The large diameter and high capacity of the proposed pipeline far exceed even the highest projected future demand for natural gas in Massachusetts. The pipeline would link the Marcellus shale gas fields in Pennsylvania with the Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline to Canada. These facts indicate that the main purpose of the proposed pipeline is for exporting Marcellus shale gas, not for serving Massachusetts needs.

Thus, any tax or tariff imposed on Massachusetts ratepayers would be subsidizing a private, for-profit enterprise, with only minor benefit to Massachusetts residents.

Any additional Massachusetts gas needs (peak electricity demand, residential heating) can be met by far less costly means.

The League supports environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation, and encourage the use of renewable resources. The League supports practices that preserve the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Kathy Vorwerk and Cynthia Brubaker
LWVA Co-Presidents

Martha Hanner
LWVA Local Action Chair

The League of Women Voters of Amherst, a non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, comments on individual Town Meeting warrant articles when these articles are relevant to published local, state, or national positions. League positions are established after League members study issues and there is general consensus among members.