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Contact: Stephen Liss (518) 455-5787

SWEENEY BROADSIDES BROADWATER

Assemblyman Bob Sweeney (D-Lindenhurst), Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation, today announced his opposition to the Broadwater Energy Project which, if approved, would authorize the construction and operation of a permanently moored Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) storage and regasification facility and a new offshore pipeline in the Long Island Sound. “This project has numerous economic, environmental and safety issues that shouldn’t be ignored by the Federal government” stated Sweeney. “While I understand and support efforts that will ensure our future energy needs will be met, I do not believe that proposals such as Broadwater are the solution. I do not support any effort that will disrupt the fragile ecosystem of the Long Island Sound or potentially endanger the residents of Long Island,” Sweeney said. “Instead of encouraging a reliance on fossil fuels that only help increase global warming, we should be focused on conservation and the development of renewable energy sources,” he added.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) recently issued the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), finding that the impacts associated would “be minor... Consequently, only a small cumulative effect is anticipated when the impacts of the proposed Project are added to past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area.” In response Sweeney said, “The FEIS failed to adequately address the substantial environmental, economic and safety concerns that were raised by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and numerous citizens both on Long Island and in Connecticut,” stated Sweeney.

“Historically, Long Island Sound has been a tourism destination and supported a thriving commercial and recreational fishing industry,” said Sweeney. “Both New York State and Connecticut have sought to protect, preserve and restore this body of water for this generation and those that will follow. Development of this project would be short-sighted and contrary to the best interests of public health and the environment.”

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