

LONG ISLAND PINE BARRENS SOCIETY



ENVIRONMENTAL & CIVIC LEADERS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST KING Blast Congressman for Vote to Deny Local Input on Broadwater LNG Factory

Demonstration/News Conference For Release: June 15, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, June 15 11:00 a.m.
1003 Park Boulevard
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

Long Island environmental and civic leaders will hold a demonstration and news conference in front of the office of Representative Peter T. King (R) of Massapequa Park. They charge that King is the lone Long Island supporter of the national energy bill, approved by the U.S. House of Representatives that would give the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in Washington sole authority to approve Liquefied Natural Gas facilities, such as the one proposed for Long Island Sound by Broadwater Energy. The Senate has yet to act on the measure.

"While there has been little action to oppose Broadwater by the Long Island Congressional Delegation, Congressman King has distinguished himself by voting to take the matter out of the hands of the citizens and elected officials of New York and Connecticut," said Pine Barrens Society Executive Director, Richard Amper.

Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment added, "Congressman King has made much about his support for Long Island Sound initiatives, but King's support of FERC jurisdiction for siting Broadwater would pave the way for the industrialization of the Sound -- This act would betray the Long Island public."

Carrying signs reading, "King of Betrayal!" Long Island community leaders demanded that Long Islanders have a say in whether or not Broadwater wins approval to site an ocean liner sized Liquefied Natural Gas factory off the coast of Long Island. They say that little of the LNG would come to Long Island, there are other, better sources, that LNG does not lower energy costs and that the supertankers bringing in the foreign LNG supplies would face the threat of accident or terrorist attack.

If approved by the Senate and signed by the President, the House bill would give complete siting authority to FERC, with no local input. The energy bill would also indemnify producers of the fuel additive MTBE from liability from contamination of drinking water such as that contained in Long Island's sole source aquifer which supplies virtually all of the Island's drinking water supply.

"This is a terrible bill that benefits only industries like Broadwater and MTBE producers," said Richard Johannesen, former President of the Affiliated Brookhaven Civic Organizations, an umbrella group of community activists. "While some public officials have yet to do the right thing about Broadwater, Representative King is doing exactly the wrong thing," he concluded.