

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

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Press Release

Recently the Canadian Government stated it's opposition and related restriction of ship traffic through Head Harbor passage connected to the proposed Liquefied Natural Gas facilities in or along Passamaquoddy Bay. This has caught the attention and raised the concern of the Washington County Commissioners as it has other political leaders of Maine.

As the single body of government that serves all of Washington County, and only Washington County, we felt it necessary to voice our concern and displeasure with the actions purportedly to be taken by the Canadian Government.

First off, let it be made clear that the County Commissioners understand all too well that there are two sides to the LNG issue and both have valid points and concerns that need to be addressed through the ongoing process. We also have some very valid concerns regarding these proposals. As a result we will remain very diligent in our ongoing review and monitoring of the process.

However, whether one is for or against the LNG proposals for Passamaquoddy Bay, the statement made by Canadian Officials goes far beyond the LNG issue. It traverses into the realm of protectionist foreign policy and the pattern of government subsidies that Canada has been allowed to suffer upon the people of Maine for much too long.

It is obvious to this board that the Province of New Brunswick is feverishly trying to protect their investments, while masquerading it as trying to protect it's citizens. If the mere passage of LNG tankers through Head Harbor Passage was so dangerous that it warranted this intrusion, obviously in their line of thinking, the danger of locating an LNG facility in one of New Brunswick's most populous cities would surely require that they prevent it's sighting on it's own soil. Evidently this is not the case, as yet again it appears that Canadian interests go a long way to trump Canadian concerns.

The claims have been made, not by the people of the United States, but by their very own citizens that the Government of New Brunswick has before succumbed to political pressures in the face of good sense. It is unfortunate that we in Maine have to suffer the consequences as they apparently are doing it again.

The Washington County Commissioners do not confuse this as a pro- or anti-LNG issue. While unabashedly supporting LNG on one side of boarder while demonizing it on the other, the Province of New Brunswick certainly hasn't either. This issue is much more important. This is about Canada attempting to impose it's will in order to protect it's own interest.

The County Commissioners cannot stress our displeasure with the actions of the Canadian officials strongly enough. We agree that the Canadian Government has a duty and responsibility to ensure the well being of their citizens. However, it cannot, and will not, be at the expense of the people of Washington County.

(The preceding is a short form view of the letter sent to the Governor and other elected leaders of Maine by the Washington County Commissioners. For a complete review of the letter please see the Washington County website at Washingtoncountymaine.com)