

21 October 2019

An Taoiseach, Minister Bruton, members of the Dail and the European Parliament,

We, the undersigned concerned individuals and organisations, ask you to remove Shannon LNG from the current draft of the 4th European Projects of Common Interest list following new information obtained at the 17 October meeting of the Committee on Industry, Telecoms, Research and Energy at the European Commission (ITRE). The Irish Government has until 23 October to remove the project from the list.

There are three main reasons for this request:

1. At the ITRE meeting, it was revealed that the Shannon LNG project is still on [the European Projects of Common Interest \(PCI\) list](#), despite the absence of a climate and sustainability study, which is mandatory. This is against Ireland's commitment to the Paris Agreement and declaration of being in a climate emergency.
2. According to the current draft of the 4th PCI list, two other gas projects connected to the Shannon LNG were taken off the PCI list. These two projects, including an underground gas storage facility in Northern Ireland and a reverse flow pipeline to Scotland, were planned to export the fracked gas from Shannon LNG to Europe. Without these two connected projects, the Shannon LNG does not meet another [criterion of the EU Commission](#) which states that the project must have a significant impact on at least two EU member states.

For the same reason of not meeting the requirement of impacting at least two EU member states, a proposed LNG terminal in Sweden was removed from the PCI list. The Swedish Government recently refused on climate grounds the permit for the connecting pipeline between the proposed LNG Gothenburg terminal and their national grid. The EU Commission has now taken the project off the 4th PCI list, stating that *"the Gothenburg LNG terminal in Sweden was removed from the BEMIP gas regional list agreed by the relevant decision-making body following the Swedish authorities' decision denying authorization for a connection of the LNG terminal to the gas transmission grid, without which the project does not have a cross border impact as required by the TEN-E Regulation."*

3. The source of gas for this project has been confirmed by the developer to originate from shale gas produced by fracking in Pennsylvania. The carbon emissions, mainly methane, arising from this process are now known to be catastrophic for global warming.

On 9 October, 2019, [Prof. Robert Howarth](#) of Cornell University, gave evidence to the Irish [Joint Committee on Climate Action](#). According to the scientific evidence *"approximately 3.5% of the shale gas that is developed is emitted to the atmosphere as unburned methane due to leaks all along the chain from wells to the final consumer and purposeful emissions as the gas is processed, stored and transported. On account of*

these methane emissions, the use of shale gas has an even greater negative impact on the climate than coal.”

Lastly, we write to voice our opposition to the lack of transparency regarding the process, timeline and meetings pertaining to the PCI list. Instead of being forthright with information that TD's and NGOs requested, the process has been shrouded in secrecy. Initially, no date was given to the Dáil on the date of the European Commission meeting in which the PCI list would be discussed. It was only after an Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) request from a local resident that the TDs and public learned on 30th September that the meeting would take place on the following Friday, 4th October. Then, after the ITRE meeting on 4th October, there no information was shared on the status of Shannon LNG and related gas projects on the PCI list. It was not until 17th October that groups learned that Ireland has until 23 October to remove Shannon LNG from the list.

For all these reasons, including the fact that this gas for the Shannon LNG terminal would be from harmful fracking in the US after Ireland banned it, and the reason in which many groups have previously stated [on the grounds of climate and human health impacts](#), the Shannon LNG terminal must be removed from the PCI list.

Sincerely,

Mark Ruffalo	Actor
Kate Ruddock	Friends of the Earth
Karen Feridun	Better Path Coalition
Barbara Warren MD	Physicians for Social Responsibility, Arizona
Walter Tsou	Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Lawrence Couch	National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Lea Harper	FreshWater Accountability Project
Rebecca Roter	Breathe Easy Susquehanna County
Heather Cantino	Athens County's Future Action Network, acfan.org
Collin Rees	Oil Change International
Jamie Murphy	Love Leitrim
Michael Carano	Tallmadge City Council, for id only
Scott Coombs	Love Leitrim
Andy Gheorghiu	Food & Water Europe
Lisa fingleton	The Barna Way
Tracie Vance	Extinction Rebellion
Sigrun Franzen	Berliner Wassertisch
Theresa O'Donohoe	Clare Environmental Network
John Higgins	Fracking Free Clare
Sinead Sheehan	Extinction Rebellion Clare
Emanuela Ferrari	Futureproof Clare
Karin Funke	Clare Biodiversity Group

Theresa O'Donohoe	Clare Environmental Network
Jill Sutcliffe	KKWG, Keep Kirdford and Wisborough 'Green'. KKWG
Jonah Krieger	FFF Clare
Anne-Marie Fuller	Anne-Marie Fuller
Luke Eastwood	Extinction Rebellion Kerry
Conor Slattery	Campaigner
Áine Dempsey	School striker/Clare environmental network
Kate Harty	School striker
Susan Carton	Concerned Health Professionals of Ireland
Kim Fraczek	Sane Energy Project
Mary Gutierrez	Earth Action, Inc.
Donald Hebbard	Compressor Free Franklin
Louise Cullen	Student activist
John McElligott	Safety Before LNG
Máirín Sharp	Máirín Sharp
Michael Eversen	Michael Eversen
Barbara Jarmoska	Responsible Drilling Alliance
Patti Wood	Grassroots Environmental Education
Wes Gillingham	Catskill Mountainkeeper
Jeff Carter	Physicians for Social Responsibility
Brigid Lawlor, RGS	Congregation of Our Lady of Charity, U.S. Provinces
William Lyons	Columbus Community Bill of Rights
Mai Sheehan	Climate striker
Catherine Devitt	Stop Climate Chaos