

Leo Varadkar, TD, Taoiseach  
Government Buildings  
Merrion Street  
Dublin 2  
3 October 2019

Dear Taoiseach Varadkar,

**RE: Please remove Shannon LNG from the Projects of Common Interest List**

We, the undersigned NGO's and individuals from Ireland and the United States, request that you remove the 'Shannon LNG' terminal and all fracked gas infrastructure projects from the European Union Projects of Common Interest (PCI) list for the Friday, October 4th meeting. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is disastrous for climate change, dangerous, and relies on fracking in the U.S. that harms people and the environment.

Ireland showed international leadership by banning fracking in 2017. As shown throughout the five year campaign by Irish citizens to stop this extraction process, fracking inflicts irreparable harm on public health, water, air, land and our shared climate. If Ireland uses U.S. fracked gas, Ireland will be responsible for facilitating continued harm to U.S. residents from drilling, fracking, and associated infrastructure for decades to come.

We know that the gas that would be used in the 'Shannon LNG' terminal would come from fracking because the corporation proposing to build it, New Fortress Energy, has stated this to its investors and reported it to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the company plans to build two plants in the fracking area of Pennsylvania to liquify stranded fracked gas in order to transport and export it to the 'Shannon LNG' terminal.<sup>2</sup> One of the proposed plants in Gibbstown, PA is controversial with community opposition.

Health professionals and scientists in the United States have been documenting the public health harms of fracking and related infrastructure for years now.<sup>3</sup> The vast majority of more than 1,500 peer-reviewed scientific studies demonstrate that drilling, fracking, and infrastructure including LNG are dangerous and harmful. In recent months, a renowned newspaper in Pennsylvania, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, has investigated and found least 67 diagnoses of extremely rare cancers in children in just 4 rural, heavily-fracked counties of the state. Health professionals are very alarmed.<sup>4</sup>

Furthermore, fracking is devastating to the climate. Drilling, fracking, and infrastructure released large amounts of methane, a type of carbon that is 87 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 20 year period. The science is now clear that natural gas is not a "transition fuel" -- it is a

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<sup>1</sup> New Fortress Energy LLC Filing at the US Securities and Exchange Commission on November 9, 2018  
[https://marcellusdrilling.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/s002392x7\\_s1.pdf](https://marcellusdrilling.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/s002392x7_s1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>New Fortress Energy LLC Filing at the US Securities and Exchange Commission on November 9, 2018  
[https://marcellusdrilling.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/s002392x7\\_s1.pdf](https://marcellusdrilling.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/s002392x7_s1.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> "The Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking"  
<https://www.psr.org/blog/resource/compendium-of-scientific-medical-and-media-findings-demonstrating-risks-and-harms-of-fracking>

<sup>4</sup> <https://newsinteractive.post-gazette.com/childhood-cancer-pittsburgh-pennsylvania-canon-mcmillan-pollution/> and  
<https://newsinteractive.post-gazette.com/fracking-and-health-2/>

steep cliff to climate catastrophe. There is widespread scientific consensus that on-going investment in fossil fuel exploration, extraction, and delivery infrastructure is incompatible with global and domestic climate objectives of limiting warming to the 1.5 °C limit (IPCC, 2018 Summary for policy makers<sup>5</sup> and recent studies highlight the significant climate pollution associated with the extraction of gas by means of fracking<sup>6</sup>.

In addition to the fact that the 'Shannon LNG' terminal would devastate public health and the climate, this process is anti-democratic. The 'Shannon LNG' terminal has not received the proper planning permits. It is outrageous to give any project PCI status before it gets proper permits and that the public is able to comment on the proposal -- which the Shannon LNG project has not. Additionally, the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) which reviews these projects, found that all the proposed fracked gas projects including the 'Shannon LNG' terminal are "projects which did not prove that their overall benefits outweigh costs"<sup>7</sup>. Lastly, the meeting of the European Commission in which the 'Shannon LNG' terminal could receive PCI status has been steeped in secrecy and only through a freedom of information request did a local resident obtain the date for the meeting giving the appearance that it is being hidden from the public.

**Given this determination in addition to the other points raised in this letter the 'Shannon LNG' and other gas projects must be removed from Friday's European Commission PCI list.**

Sincerely,

Chief of the Ramapough Lenape Nation Dwaine Perry  
Michael Moore  
Mark Ruffalo

Good Energies Alliance Ireland  
Fracking Free Clare  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service  
The Shalom Center  
Guernsey County Citizens Support on Drilling Issues  
Earth Action, Inc  
Protect All Children's Environment  
Safety Before LNG  
Delaware Riverkeeper Network  
Coalition to Protect New York  
Rootskeeper  
FreshWater Accountability Project Ohio  
Northwest Activists Ireland  
Concerned Health Professionals of Ireland

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/summary-for-policy-makers/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.psr.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/compendium-6.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.acer.europa.eu/Official\\_documents/Acts\\_of\\_the\\_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2019-2019%20on%20Gas%20PCI%20list.pdf](https://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2019-2019%20on%20Gas%20PCI%20list.pdf)

Young Friends of the Earth  
Athens County's Future Action Network  
Plymouth Friends of Clean Water  
Berks Gas Truth  
Better Path Coalition  
Dunderberg Gallery  
Patriots From The Oil & Gas Shales  
Sustainable Medina County  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd  
Corl  
Love Leitrim  
Radioactive Waste Alert  
Good Energies Alliance Ireland  
Leitrim People Before Profit  
Lancaster Against Pipelines  
Friends of the Earth Ireland  
An Taisce Climate Committee  
Not Here Not Anywhere  
Electric Bike Trails  
Stop Climate Chaos Coalition  
Leitrim Tourism Network  
Bucks Environmental Action  
The Organic Centre  
FracTracker Alliance  
Physicians for Social Responsibility Philadelphia  
350.org  
NY Water Action  
Catskill Mountainkeeper  
Communities for Climate Action  
Frack Action  
Friends of the Earth Ireland  
Extinction Rebellion Ireland  
Cool Planet Champions  
Food and Water Watch  
Food and Water Watch Europe  
Elected Officials to Protect New York