

NEW ENGLAND COALITION FOR

AFFORDABLE ENERGY

For Immediate Release:

**Statement by New England Coalition for Affordable Energy
On Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future**

Boston, MA – 2/17/16 - Yesterday, seventeen governors, including five from New England, signed a "Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future" to embrace a bold vision of the nation's energy future to capture clean energy opportunities and tackle growing energy challenges.

The governors who signed the accord acknowledged the importance of modernizing and expanding electric distribution networks and the transmission grid which the Coalition concurs with. They noted that actions are needed to integrate renewable resources into grid operations.

However, for New England at least, the accord overlooks or dismisses the critical need for all types of energy infrastructure.

A study last year by La Capra Associates (now Daymark Energy Advisors) underscores the need for timely decision-making to approve new natural gas pipelines, electric transmission lines and new electricity generation. The study finds that if no new infrastructure is built in New England by 2020, regional consequences will include \$5.4 billion in higher energy prices, \$12.5 billion in lost disposable income and the loss of some 167,000 jobs.

Natural gas pipeline capacity is needed, in particular, to meet the growing demand for natural gas to fuel the region's electricity generating plants. Many existing power plants are scheduled to retire and will need to be replaced with plants fueled by natural gas that can provide 24/7 base load generation, and the electricity necessary to back up intermittent power from renewable resources.

The importance of additional natural gas delivery capacity into New England has been highlighted repeatedly by ISO New England and must not be overlooked. *To do so would be analogous to starting a trip in a car without checking the fuel gauge.*

A balanced, all-resource strategy is the best path for ensuring future energy supplies that are affordable, stable and predictable.

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