

2010 -- H 7200

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**OPPOSING WEAVER'S COVE ENERGY LLC'S PROPOSED OFFSHORE BERTH PROJECT
ALONG WITH THE LNG FACILITY AT WEAVER'S COVE, FALL RIVER,
MASSACHUSETTS AND THE TRANSPORTATION OF LNG ON NARRAGANSETT BAY
AND MT. HOPE BAY**

Introduced By: Representatives Malik, Gallison, Ruggiero, Gablinske, and Melo

Date Introduced: January 26, 2010

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

1 WHEREAS, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is a highly volatile and combustible liquid
2 form of natural gas; and

3 WHEREAS, A proposal to store LNG in large quantities at a facility at Weaver's Cove,
4 Fall River, Massachusetts, is pending before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and

5 WHEREAS, The location of this facility is in a densely populated area of the community
6 of Fall River, potentially affecting the lives and property of more than 59,000 people; and

7 WHEREAS, The proponent of the Weaver's Cove facility has described a fire at the
8 proposed facility as being likened to a "giant Roman candle"; and

9 WHEREAS, A fire at this facility would result in immense destruction and devastation to
10 an area of up to three miles away from the facility; and

11 WHEREAS, LNG stored at this facility would be transported by supertankers up to 1,000
12 feet long, 150 feet wide, and 130 feet high carrying 38 million gallons of LNG into and on
13 Narragansett Bay and Mt. Hope Bay; and

14 WHEREAS, These tankers would make trips into and on Narragansett Bay and Mt. Hope
15 Bay every 5 days; and

16 WHEREAS, The Commandant of the United States Coast Guard has stated that his
17 agency cannot guarantee the safety and security of harbors from a terrorist on a suicide mission;
18 and

1 WHEREAS, The events of September 11, 2001, have raised concerns about the potential
2 for terrorist attacks on the energy infrastructure of the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, The possibility of the use of a “boat bomb” such as was used against the
4 USS Cole in 2000 and the oil tanker Limburg in 2002 to attack a liquid fuel tanker in a United
5 States harbor has been publicly discussed in Massachusetts, where Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
6 tankers land cargoes in Boston Harbor; and

7 WHEREAS, The consequences of such an incident could be severe and present a
8 potential problem of great magnitude for public safety officials; and

9 WHEREAS, The safety concerns for the public stem from the effects of the burning of an
10 LNG tankers’ combustible liquid cargo; and

11 WHEREAS, The ensuing fire can spread on the sea surface toward nearby shorelines and
12 its thermal radiation could produce second and third degree burns within thirteen seconds to
13 exposed individuals on shore; and

14 WHEREAS, The ensuing fire could spread on the sea towards the nearby shoreline and
15 its thermal radiation could set fire to wooden structures on shore within forty seconds; and

16 WHEREAS, The federally required “safety zone” around an LNG supertanker would be
17 up two miles ahead of the supertanker, one mile astern, and 1,000 yards on either side; and

18 WHEREAS, All commercial and recreational boaters would be cleared out of the safety
19 zone while an LNG supertanker is proceeding to its destination; and

20 WHEREAS, The bridges along the route of an LNG supertanker would be closed,
21 resulting in great disruption and inconvenience to motorists; and

22 WHEREAS, LNG supertankers entering Rhode Island water every five days would have
23 a negative impact upon Rhode Island’s tourism economy, fishing, and marine industries, as well
24 as posing tremendous threats to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens living, working, and
25 recreating along the route of an LNG supertanker; and

26 WHEREAS, Communities along the route of an LNG supertanker will be required to
27 bear the cost and burden for providing police and fire personnel without compensation; and

28 WHEREAS, To accommodate the LNG supertankers, a portion of Mt. Hope Bay would
29 have to be dredged, resulting in a compromising of the fragile ecosystem of Mt. Hope Bay; and

30 WHEREAS, Weaver’s Cove Energy LLC is now proposing to offload LNG on an
31 offshore berthing platform to be located in Mt. Hope Bay; and

32 WHEREAS, This offshore berthing platform will pose a safety hazard to the
33 communities located around Mt. Hope Bay; and

34 WHEREAS, This proposed offshore berthing platform will pose an environmental risk to

1 the ecosystem of Mt. Hope Bay, as the LNG supertankers will be traveling to this facility from
2 foreign ports, bringing with them microorganisms not indigenous to Narragansett Bay and Mt.
3 Hope Bay; and

4 WHEREAS, A one mile safety and security zone will have to be maintained for twenty-
5 four hours while the LNG supertanker is offloaded; and

6 WHEREAS, Commercial and recreational boating will be prohibited from entering the
7 safety and security zone, resulting in a major disruption for use of Mt. Hope Bay by citizens and
8 business people; and

9 WHEREAS, Located in Mt. Hope Bay is Spar Island, which is a habitat for seals, and
10 intrusion into this habitat is a violation of the United States Marine Mammal Protection Act; and

11 WHEREAS, Below Mt. Hope Bay lies an earthquake fault and seismic activity has
12 already occurred; and

13 WHEREAS, The regional requirements for natural gas are being met by the LNG
14 offloading facility located in the waters off the cost of Gloucester, Massachusetts; now, therefore
15 be it

16 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
17 Providence Plantations expresses its utmost opposition to the ill-conceived and unnecessary
18 proposals to construct an LNG storage facility in Fall River, Massachusetts, along with the
19 construction of an LNG offshore berthing platform in Mt. Hope Bay, as well as the transportation
20 of LNG in and on the waters of the State of Rhode Island including Narragansett Bay and Mt.
21 Hope Bay; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
23 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,
24 the Congressional delegations of the State of Rhode Island and Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
25 and the Governors of the States of Rhode Island and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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