

## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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### Testimony

### RE: The Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline Compressor Station Expansion Submitted to the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)

My name is Martin Foncello, and I serve as the State Representative for the 107th District. I am also a retired Army Officer with 28 years of service, a former First Selectman of Brookfield, and a long-time advocate for public safety and responsible infrastructure planning. I submit this testimony on behalf of the residents who have contacted me with concerns about the proposed expansion of the natural gas compressor station in Brookfield.

#### Community Safety and Public Health

The proposed expansion sits in close proximity to Whisconier Middle School, and residential neighborhoods. This is not an abstract risk. Compressor stations emit pollutants during normal operations and during blowdowns, including volatile organic compounds and particulate matter that can affect respiratory health — especially in children.

Residents deserve assurance that the air their families breathe is safe. The applicant has not provided sufficient, independently verified data to demonstrate that emissions will remain within safe limits under all operating conditions.

#### Operational and Emergency Risks

Compressor stations are industrial facilities with inherent mechanical and operational hazards. Blowdowns, equipment failures, and emergency shutdowns can release large volumes of gas and create significant noise, pressure, and safety concerns.

Brookfield's First Responders are highly capable, but they are not designed to manage a high-impact industrial incident at a site this close to a school and densely populated neighborhoods. Any project of this

scale must demonstrate that emergency response planning is realistic, coordinated, and fully resourced. That has not yet been shown.

### **Environmental and Quality-of-Life Impacts**

Noise, vibration, and habitat disruption are not minor issues for the families who live nearby. The cumulative impact of expanded operations — including nighttime noise, increased blowdown frequency, and long-term environmental effects — has not been adequately addressed.

Brookfield residents have repeatedly expressed that they do not want to see their quality of life diminished by an expansion that primarily benefits out-of-state energy distribution.

### **Regulatory Scrutiny and Accountability**

DEEP's role is essential. The agency must evaluate this proposal based on independent analysis, not industry assurances. The burden of proof lies with the applicant, and at this time, the evidence provided does not meet the standard required to justify approval.

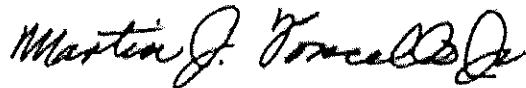
Two decades ago, as First Selectman, I opposed a similar expansion because the risks outweighed the benefits. Today, with more homes, more students, and more community activity in the immediate area, those risks are even greater.

### **Conclusion**

For the safety of our children, the health of our residents, and the long-term well-being of our community, I urge DEEP to deny the proposed expansion — or, at a minimum, require a significantly revised application that fully addresses the gaps in safety, environmental impact, and emergency preparedness.

Brookfield residents deserve transparency, accountability, and a regulatory process that puts public safety first. I stand ready to work with DEEP, local officials, and community members to ensure that outcome.

Respectfully submitted,



Martin Foncello  
State Representative  
107th District  
Brookfield, Newtown, and Bethel