

# Hunterdon Review – letter to the editor

## Gas pipeline expansion is a bad idea for New Jersey

*Posted: Thursday, July 7, 2011 1:00 am*

EDITOR:

The pipeline expansion through the southern Highlands is being constructed to move natural gas from the Marcellus Shale fields to the Northeast Corridor. New Jersey is not even on the receiving end of much of this production, but stands in the middle with much to lose. Instead of further degrading the Highlands with yet another transmission line, we should continue to support the renewable energy initiatives the state already has in place.

Gov. Christie's Draft Energy Master Plan (EMP) now places fossil fuels before renewable sources. However, his draft EMP will be scrutinized at three public hearings before it is finalized. There are still opportunities to push for clean energy.

Gov. Christie also announced that he will withdraw New Jersey from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI): a program that is successfully incentivizing the market towards renewable technology. By abandoning RGGI and adopting a limp EMP, we will take giant leap backwards in achieving a healthy and affordable energy future.

Advocates of fossil fuel would have us believe that there are no viable alternatives to pipeline expansions; but with an ambitious EMP and programs like RGGI we have shown we can effectively reduce our dependence on dirty sources of energy.

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