

My name is Ted Cady, I am chair of the Town of Warwick Planning Board. The proposed Tennessee Gas Pipeline will pass through our town so we have looked carefully at the proposal.

There are many aspects to this pipeline proposal, but one of the worst is the 2% tariff on electric rates to pay for a pipeline that is sized for the export market. With gas prices twice as high in Europe and three times higher in Japan, and an existing pipeline from Canaport LNG, in St. John, New Brunswick there is every reason to believe that most of the gas will go to that market. The impact of this diversion on gas prices for Massachusetts would likely be to increase prices.

Many of us remember having an off peak meter for heating hot water, but in our area those days are gone. We switched a couple of houses still using incandescent light bulbs to LED light bulbs for lights they used most frequently and found significant savings. If Mass. is going to have a 2% tariff on electricity, let us use it for a long term gain for all of us by installing smart meters and going the other things that can save huge amounts of electricity such as subsidizing LED bulbs, and encouraging off peak use.

Many of the towns that the pipeline will run through are rural with low density housing that can not be served by the pipeline running through the town. It is like a limited access highway with no off ramps in the towns it goes through. Conservation measures can benefit us all without regard to whether or not we are served by the pipeline.

The pipeline does nothing to solve the peak demand problem until (probably) 2019. We can develop peaking capabilities well before that by better utilizing resources that are available and by building some additional storage. These options are much cheaper.

Recent government analysis suggests the technically available gas in the Marcellus Shale Play is much less than first assumed. There is increasing doubt that there will be sufficient gas available for the full payback period of the pipeline.

A few years ago I installed a new high efficiency boiler in my home. It cut my heating bill in half. Many homeowners in our town have 50+ year old furnaces. They know how inefficient the furnace is, but can not afford a new one, even though the payback period is just a few years. We can do better.

But, the bottom line is that we have barely scratched the surface of what can be accomplished with energy conservation. A 2 billion dollar investment in energy conservation would have a more significantly beneficial impact than the pipeline, and better meet goals of the Commonwealth and its citizens.

Ted Cady, Chair, Warwick Planning Board