

LNG Proposal at Outer Brewster Island

Position Statement

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Outer Brewster Island is a 20.3-acre island on the outer edges of Boston Harbor. It is part of the Boston Harbor Islands National Park, the primary purpose of which is to “preserve for public use and enjoyment the lands and waters” of the area encompassed by the park. The park is run through a Partnership with the state and other entities. Outer Brewster Island is owned by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and is protected from development or transfer for non-park uses by Article 97 of the state Constitution.

The management plan for the Park designates Outer Brewster Island in the Natural Resources Emphasis category. This is a highly protective category of use and management, consistent with the ecological sensitivity of the site. Major development is precluded, and even general public visitation may be limited or even closed at certain times in order to protect sensitive resources such as nesting terns.

AES Battery Rock LLC has proposed development of an LNG terminal on the island. Such major industrial development would be inconsistent with the island’s status as a national and state park, and with the management plan for this portion of the park. The company has promised to contribute large sums of money to assist with management of remaining portions of the park in exchange for developing Outer Brewster Island.

Industry should not look to precious public parklands for development. Nor should the Commonwealth sell off parts of the park system in order to fund maintenance of under-funded remaining parklands.

The development of any new LNG facilities in Massachusetts or New England should be planned through an open, public, process that examines all feasible alternatives for meeting the demand for LNG.

This project proposal highlights the need for passage of two of Mass Audubon’s state legislative priorities: *The Comprehensive Ocean Resources Management Act*, and *An Act To Protect The Natural And Historic Resources Of The Commonwealth* (aka The Article 97 Bill). For more information on this legislation, see: <http://www.massaudubon.org/advocacy/priorities.php - strategy>

For more information on the Boston Harbor Islands National Park and this project, contact:

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