

SAVE THE BREWSTERS

Save The Brewsters is a Hull-based citizen's group that has formed in opposition to the recent AES Corporation's plan for Outer Brewster. We are here today to express the views of hundreds of people who have come to us to express their alarm at AES's LNG plant proposal.

Some of us believe that Safety is the most important concern.

Others feel that protecting the pristine wilderness on and surrounding the island should be the greatest consideration, particularly given its status as a State and National Park.

Many have voiced scepticism about the real need for a second LNG facility in Boston Harbor at all, given the ongoing LNG operations in Everett and lack of consensus about the region's real energy needs.

Whatever the focus of our opposition – safety, environmental stewardship, or responsible energy policy – every group opposing AES's proposition, and most who are still on the fence, agree on one thing: Time is needed to fully understand what exactly AES plans to do, how their plans will impact local people and natural resources, and the potential benefit to local communities when weighed against the risks.

AES has neither submitted their plan to the public nor the legislature -- while still insisting on a legislative vote by the November 16 recess. At the October 11 Hull Selectmen's meeting, AES stonewalled State Senator Robert Hedlund, State Representative Garrett Bradley, and Hull's Selectmen when they requested time to understand AES's proposal and its implications. Repeatedly, all have asked for AES to wait to bring this bill to the floor until the Legislature reconvenes in January, which would at least allow some time for information-gathering, analysis, and public discussion.

AES has stated that they are in a race with several other companies to win the bid for New England's next LNG terminal – and that their competitors have a two-year head start. According to AES spokesman Aaron Sampson, AES will lose the race for market share if they cannot get legislative approval this fall. Should AES's rush for profit make us scramble through this tremendously important decision, one with regional and national implications? We need and deserve the opportunity to become informed, and, if appropriate, to stand up for those people and places that, while silent, nonetheless deserve protection rather than exploitation.