

(Councilor Raymond A. Mitchell)  
(Councilor Eric Poulin)

WHEREAS, the Weaver's Cove Energy subsidiary of Hess LNG has proposed to build a major berthing and offloading structure for liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers in the middle of Mt. Hope Bay, and to ship LNG numerous times per year through the narrow East Passage of Narragansett Bay, and

WHEREAS, LNG tankers are vulnerable to a terrorist attack and a successful attack could result in a high energy detonation or fire jeopardizing the US Naval Station Newport, the Naval War College, the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, and major bridges and additionally result in a high energy detonation and the release of explosive gas over Newport, Jamestown, and other populous communities on Narragansett Bay, and

WHEREAS, a January 2008 report from the US Government Accountability Office warned that the US Coast Guard is, in some cases, "unable to meet its own self-imposed security standards, such as escorting ships carrying liquefied natural gas", and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Bridge & Turnpike Authority has stated its intention to close the Pell and Mt. Hope Bridges when tankers pass by, and had warned that those closures "will cause safety hazards, including (critical) delays in response times of emergency vehicles" such as ambulances and police and fire vehicles, and

WHEREAS, 140 LNG tankers transits annually through Narragansett Bay will trigger unannounced and strictly enforced prohibitions against all other boat traffic two miles ahead, one mile astern, and a thousand yards to either side of the tankers, and

WHEREAS, these prohibitions will disrupt and make less competitive the local economy which is dependent on revenue from pleasure boating, regattas, cruise ship visits, harbor tours, recreational and other marine activities in the "Sailing Capital of the US", and the revenue from millions of people visiting Narragansett Bay communities and their innumerable attractions, and

WHEREAS, the Hess assertion that its LNG facility will create hundreds of "direct and indirect" jobs must be weighed against the possibility that an equal or greater number of fishing, boating and hospitality jobs will vanish in the wake of declining tourism, and

WHEREAS, the Hess Weaver's Cove LNG facility will require a new 4.5 mile pipeline with new and untested cryogenic technology, including dredging for the pipeline and berthing which will disturb 73 acres of winter flounder nursery/spawning habitat and will unleash pollutants entombed in dredged sediment and also along the miles of Narragansett Bay traveled during the estimated 1,000 barge transports of contaminated sediment to a deep ocean dumping site, and



