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**STATEMENT OF MASSPIRG IN OPPOSITION TO CONSTRUCTION OF AN LNG
TERMINAL ON OUTER BREWSTER ISLAND**

Last month Virginia based AES Battery Rock, LLC announced its intention to buy or lease Outer Brewster Island in the Boston Harbor Islands and convert it into an LNG facility and storage depot. We are here today in opposition to that plan.

This is a bad proposal from both energy and environmental policy perspectives.

From an energy perspective, it is clear that we should not be building any LNG facilities until we have exhausted other cleaner, safer, more environmentally-friendly options, and until we know how much of the fuel we need. We cannot know how much LNG we need until we take every cost-effective step toward energy efficiency that we can, and until we have a regional plan that looks at regional energy needs. Energy efficiency is the cheapest, quickest, cleanest way to start solving our energy problems.

The legislature needs to pass HB 4299, the energy efficiency standards bill, as a start toward a more energy-efficient future. The House deserves thanks for advancing this important bill, and we look forward to working with the Senate to pass it in the near future. In addition Senate President Travaglini and House Speaker DiMasi and the chairmen of the energy committee deserve praise for including in their recent energy assistance plan extension of the electric utility efficiency programs. These two steps will help to reduce the need for controversial LNG facilities. And there are other cost-effective energy measures that should be adopted, such as efficiency programs for oil and gas heating customers and improved building codes and standards, that will save money for consumers and businesses while reducing use of dirty and expensive fossil fuels.

From an environmental perspective, Outer Brewster and the cluster of surrounding islands that make up Calf Bay and Brewster Cove are a spectacular natural and recreational resource, with stunning and historic views of the Graves and Boston Light. They are the seaward gateway to the Boston Harbor Islands State Park, and the

Boston Harbor Islands national park and recreation area, which includes 34 islands rich in natural and cultural resources.

These outer islands are on a major seasonal migration route for eagles, hawks, osprey, and for Monarch butterflies. They are also the seasonal home to important species of sea and shore birds. The adjacent waters are among the most popular in the park, with great fishing, sailing, diving, lobstering, birding and boating. The bays themselves are rocky and shallow, and comprise critical habitat for juvenile finfish and lobster. Calf Bay is winter home to the Harbor Islands only colony of seals, which often haul out within a few feet of the proposed LNG terminal.

Whale watch vessels, commuter and excursion boats, and other commercial and recreational vessels regularly pass through Hypocrite Channel on their way into and out of Boston Harbor, to the South Shore, Cape Cod and beyond. The proposed plant and the security zone that it would likely require could forever restrict access to this important part of the park to recreational boaters, divers, fishermen, lobsterman, and sailors, as well as the kayakers and canoeists who consider these protected bays the jewels of the park.

Outer Brewster and the surrounding bays and islands are an important part of both the state and national park systems, a primary purpose of which is to "preserve for public use and enjoyment the lands and waters" of the area encompassed by the park. 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, a highly protective category of use and management, consistent with the ecological sensitivity of the site. The proposed development of an LNG terminal on the island would be inconsistent with the island's status both as a state park, and as a national park and recreation area.

All of us here today are united in our opposition to that plan. Together we call on decision makers, opinion leaders, our elected officials, and, in particular on the State Legislature, to reject any bill that would allow the Department of Conservation and Recreation to transfer ownership or control of Outer Brewster Island to AES or any other company for use as an LNG terminal.