

## Rodvien, Emma (PUC)

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**From:** Sen. Mendes, Cynthia M. <sen-mendes@rilegislature.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021 6:48 PM  
**To:** Rodvien, Emma (PUC)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Senator Cynthia Mendes - official comment on Sea3 expansion

Dear EFSB,

My name is Senator Cynthia Mendes, I represent District 18 in the Rhode Island State Senate, and I am submitting comments in favor of requiring a full review of the Sea 3 proposed Liquified Propane Gas expansion.

I am calling on EFSB to do the following:

1. The Energy Facility Siting Board must determine that the Sea 3 Providence expansion is an “alteration to a major energy facility” and require a full application and review by the Board
2. The EFSB must extend the public comment period at least another 2 months
3. The EFSB must have the full review include cumulative health and safety impacts

This project, as an expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure in a heavily overburdened, BIPOC community, without robust public engagement no less, requires this.

First, state law requires a full application and approval from the EFSB if the expansion is an “alteration” to the existing facility. According to Rhode Island General Law § 42-98-3(b), an “alteration” is “a significant modification to a major energy facility, which, as determined by the board, will result in a significant impact on the environment, or the public health, safety, and welfare. ”Sea 3 denies it requires a full review but their application is self-contradictory. How can a facility that does not constitute an alteration of "an existing energy facility" be necessary "to meet the future demand for LPG in the region"?

Second, because the proposed expansion of this facility may result in a significant increase in diesel emissions within the Port area, which is already overburdened with polluting industrial activities and truck traffic, the potential growth in operations necessarily encourages and supports more use of fossil fuels. This is inconsistent with Rhode Island’s long-term climate change goals and binding emissions reductions as well as Providence’s Climate Justice Plan.

Third, because the proposal raises public safety concerns – it must be fully vetted by the EFSB before it is approved.

As a lawmaker and working-class, single mother, I have a duty to stand up for those who are underrepresented in the state and fight for their right for breathable air and for a habitable planet for my daughter and her generation. What happens in one part of our state affects all of it and our people in Providence, East Providence, and Pawtucket have dealt with enough pollution and strife. No one should have to spend one day breathing polluted air, nonetheless their entire lifetime. This needs to end now.

I urge the EFSB to require a full review of this fossil fuel expansion and to recognize the horrendous and disproportionate environmental impacts on the local communities by greenlighting this project.

Grateful & Hopeful  
Senator Cynthia Mendes (D-18)



**SENATOR CYNTHIA M. MENDES**

District 18 – East Providence, Pawtucket

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