

# Sentinel & Enterprise

## **Businesses need more pipeline capacity**

As a plastics compounding company for over 30 years, we have experienced the ups and downs of the economic cycle. We have witnessed several transformative periods in our industry and adapted to the changes.

Having embraced the concept of plastic recycling from its infancy, we have been active participants in "closing the loop" of the green circle. Our efforts and continued commitment to recycling have culminated in the reprocessing of over 50 million pounds of plastic this past year, while meeting or exceeding our carbon-reduction targets.

Innovative manufacturing processes are very energy-intensive, however, and our energy cost has skyrocketed.

Over the past decade, discoveries of enormous deposits of domestic natural gas in shale formations, coupled with technological advances in exploration and production, have led to the creation of millions of new jobs and lower energy costs for consumers, businesses and industry across the country, with a few exceptions. Massachusetts being one.

Due to natural-gas pipeline-capacity constraints and the added cost of "green energy" mandates, Massachusetts has been burdened with some of the highest energy bills in the continental United States.

To remain competitive, those of us in energy-intensive industries have exhausted all energy savings and conservation initiatives available only to see our input cost continue to rise dramatically.

The immediate need for increasing our natural-gas pipeline capacity is clear, and the benefits of a stable, lower-cost-reliable energy source are immense. Many good-paying jobs will be created as new companies spring up and existing businesses feel more comfortable about future energy prices and, in turn, invest new capital and continue to grow here in Massachusetts.

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