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April 12, 2012

Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York;
Board of Governance of the Hudson River Park Trust
Mr. Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President; Board of
Governance of the Hudson River Park Trust
Ms. Madelyn Wils, President & CEO, Hudson River Park Trust
Mr. Brad Hoylman, Chair, CB2
Mr. Jason Mansfield, Chair, Environment, Public Safety &
Public Health Committee of CB2
Mr. Arthur Z. Schwartz, Chair, Waterfront Committee, CB2

Dear Sirs and Madame,

We, the board of Democracy for New York City, wish to join with Sane Energy, NYH20, Three Parks Independent Democrats, and other progressive organizations, in speaking out against the proposed Spectra pipeline, also known as the New Jersey-New York Expansion Project,

This project has the potential to put people who live in the neighborhoods where it is to be built at risk and could have long-term environmental consequences for the entire region. Experts say that The Spectra pipeline could bring fracked Marcellus shale gas, its air pollution, water contamination risks, and radon to all 5 boroughs of New York City,

A project that is potentially this hazardous should simply not be built in such a densely populated metropolitan area without comprehensive studies and citizen input. This would include consideration of whether the designated neighborhoods on the lower west side can handle the potential issues arising from the project. For instance, if there were an accident during construction or operation, there are currently no emergency medical facilities in that area that could handle the situation. The West Village has in fact been without such a facility since St. Vincent's hospital closed.

DFNYC is a progressive organization that promotes democracy in our city. As part of our mission, we urge decision-making officials to put the needs of our citizens first. Those who live and work in our city, and particularly those who reside in the affected neighborhoods, have the right to be involved in the decisions made about this pipeline. In our view, there has not been nearly enough time for consideration of its short and long term consequences.

Therefore, we strongly oppose the approval of the Spectra Pipeline/New Jersey-New York Expansion Project without further comprehensive study of its potential impacts. We also feel it is imperative that there be more involvement by the residents in the neighborhoods that will be affected.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
Democracy for New York City