News from Ed Markey

United States Congress **Massachusetts Seventh District**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 26, 2001

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MARKEY URGES THAT TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT ADDRESS SAFETY ISSUES AT LIQUID NATURAL GAS FACILITY IN EVERETT, MA

Letter to Department of Transportation asks questions about supply interruption, safety, security, defenses against terrorist attack

Washington, DC: Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA) today released a letter sent to Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta asking detailed questions regarding security and emergency response preparedness for an accident at or terrorist attack on the liquid natural gas (LNG) storage facility in Everett, MA. The Department of Transportation is charged with setting safety standards for LNG facilities.

"LNG is a critical component of the energy supply of the Boston area," said Rep. Markey, "and we wish to ensure that both the safety of the community and the continued supply of the resource are protected."

The Distrigas facility in Everett, MA is one of two operating LNG terminals in the U.S., and it provides on average 15-20% of the region's energy supply. While LNG can quickly and harmlessly vaporize when exposed to air, it is highly flammable under some circumstances, and its ignition could result in a fire that could cause significant loss of life and property.

Questions asked by Rep. Markey are related:

- **Identifying the federal, state and local agencies responsible for the security of both the transportation to and storage of LNG at the Everett facility, and detailing the plans to both prevent and respond to an accident or terrorist attack.**
- **Describing the minimum safety and security standards related to the transportation of LNG to the storage facility, operation of the facility, and whether criminal background checks are conducted on prospective employees involved in transportation or storage of LNG.**
- **The consequences of an accident at or attack on LNG being transported to the storage facility or located within the storage facility itself.**

"Natural gas is of vital importance to New England's energy infrastructure. We need to ensure that every reasonable effort be undertaken to assure that LNG is defended against the threat of terrorist attack, and that the surrounding community is protected from the consequences of such an attack," said Rep. Markey.

The text of the entire letter can be found at www.house.gov/Markey/issues.htm.

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