

S/M/S4.018|3-19|

## MANDATE

### **Stance Against Light Natural Gas in Ireland**

Submitted by: Aoife Hynes (Green Campus Senator)

Seconded by: Katie Deegan (MSU President)

#### **Student Senate notes:**

Light Natural Gas (LNG) is gas that comes from fracking. It was previously proposed as a cleaner fuel than other fossil fuels, due to its lower emissions when burned. However, this was proven untrue by further scientific research. The methane released when extracting LNG from the ground negates the previous argument in favour of its use.

Methane is a potent green house gas, which is 86 time more harmful to our atmosphere than carbon dioxide. The rise of fracking is widely considered to be one of the largest contributors to the acceleration in climate change.

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment insist that the project must go ahead. Their reasoning is that they must use the science from 2008, when planning permission was sought. This science purported LNG as a cleaner fuel, which was soon proven untrue. They argue that they cannot look at the up to date science, although it clearly states the enormous harms of this fuel source. Fracking has been banned in Ireland and other countries, due to the damage it causes to local environment as well as to local communities. Fracking has been shown to poison soil and groundwater, increase miscarriages and abnormal defects in pregnancies, and to cause an increase in cancers, including among children. Despite Ireland's ban on fracking, the government is seeking permission to build Cork LNG and Shannon LNG. These terminals would provide infrastructure to import

S/M/S4.018|3-19|

LNG from the United States. Ireland is due to face enormous fines for failure to reduce emissions, and yet this infrastructure will tie us into another 30 years of fossil fuel usage.

Special permission must be sought for Shannon LNG as it will be built in a protected wildlife heritage area, namely a nursery where dolphins calve. These dolphins support local tourism and their loss will be detrimental to tourism industry.

The majority of the Dail voted that the Shannon LNG project not be placed on the Public Common Interest list of the European Union, which would bypass the protection laws in place on local environment. Despite this, Minister Bruton ignored the active opposition of Irish citizens and TDs and placed the project on the PCI list

By importing fracked Light Natural Gas from the USA we are supporting the destruction of communities in the US. As well as this we are supporting US fracking projects in South America, which have been known for their persecution of local people and especially indigenous peoples. This persecution involves the hiring of mercenaries who brutalise citizens, and drive off activists with the threat of murder.

**Student Senate therefore mandates:**

That the Students Union President ensures promotion of education on this issue among the student populace.

**Student Senate further mandates:**

That the Student Union involve themselves in and support lobbying and protest against the Shannon LNG and Cork LNG projects.