



ORIGINAL

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COMMITTEES

BUDGET

(REPUBLICAN BUDGET OFFICER)

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Docket No. CP15-558-000

Dear Secretary Bose:

Since 2008, I have proudly served the taxpayers of Monmouth County in the New Jersey General Assembly. Through my role as Republican Budget Officer I have sought to focus attention on the State's need to live within its means and spend taxpayer dollars wisely.

Economic development and long-term investments in our state's energy infrastructure are smart, sound endeavors that serve three crucial public policy priorities:

- Job creation in the building and construction trades;
- Making the state more affordable to live and operate a business;
- Bolstering of New Jersey's energy infrastructure.

Monmouth County in Central New Jersey – where I grew-up and now represent in the Legislature – experienced the full wrath of Superstorm Sandy in October 2012. Dozens of communities suffered unprecedented flooding, beach erosion, and damage to private property. Even today, some residents are still in the midst returning to the neighborhoods, schools and local businesses they called “home” before the storm.

During the rebuilding process after Sandy, along with reconstruction of state and local roads and bridges, we also faced the daunting task of rebuilding Monmouth County's energy infrastructure. Electric, natural gas and water services all required significant investments to return our region to the dependability and reliability we knew before the storm.

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FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

The proposed PennEast Pipeline in Hunterdon and Mercer counties – adjacent to Monmouth County in Central New Jersey – will bring 1 billion cubic feet of natural gas, per day, from the Marcellus Region of Pennsylvania. It's the largest and most affordable supply of energy in all of North America, and we need direct pipeline links to access it and realize substantial savings for customers and businesses alike. Looking to the future and the potential for other lifeline service interruptions, either through natural forces or human actions, we must focus greater attention on the need to both expand and harden our natural gas infrastructure. This new supply will help meet our growing in-state energy needs and add a level of much-needed redundancy.

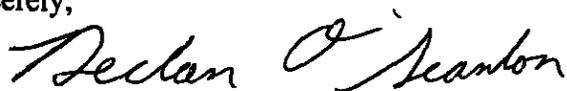
Additionally, the PennEast Pipeline project is estimated to create 2,500 direct jobs in the region of which Central Jersey can play a critical role. Many of these construction jobs will be targeted at New Jersey's skilled tradespeople, planners, and engineers. Job creation in the construction trades remains well behind pre-recession levels, and the need for large-scale infrastructure projects, like PennEast, cannot be overemphasized.

Finally, a recent economic study found that the PennEast Pipeline would have saved, at a minimum, over \$375 million in energy costs for families and businesses during the 2013-2014 winter season. As a resident of the highest taxed state in America, I believe strongly that we have a responsibility to support smart public policy initiatives that lower the costs of owning a home and running a business.

Energy and jobs; both are crucial to New Jersey. I am pleased to support the PennEast Pipeline and I hope the Commission will act expeditiously to approve this important project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Declan J. O'Scanlon, Jr.
Republican Budget Officer
New Jersey General Assembly
District 13 (Monmouth County)

Cc:

The Hon. Chris Christie, Governor – State of New Jersey
The Hon. Kim Guadagno, Lt Governor
The Hon. Bob Martin, Commissioner – NJ Department of Environmental Protection
The Hon. Rick Mroz, President – NJ Board of Public Utilities

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