

CP 15-558

LOU BARLETTA
11TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

TRANSPORTATION AND
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July 28, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Bose:

I write to you in regards to the PennEast Pipeline Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Docket Number CP15-558-000. This project is of significance to me and my constituents, as it would originate in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

The PennEast Project is similar to UGI Energy Services' recently completed Auburn Gathering System, a 37-mile project in Northeast Pennsylvania that delivers locally produced gas to customers of UGI's Penn Natural Gas distribution system within my district. Like the Auburn System, the PennEast Project will carry local natural gas from Northeast Pennsylvania shale reserves to nearby Pennsylvania and New Jersey communities. This natural gas will also support the growing role of natural gas-fired electric generation. Recent analysis examining potential energy cost savings found that, had PennEast's capacity been in service during the 2013/14 winter, electric and natural gas consumers would have saved more than \$893 million in energy costs. Sixty percent of those savings would have gone to electric customers, with the remaining savings to natural gas customers.

Outside of their financial benefit to consumers, natural gas pipelines like the PennEast Project can have both immediate and long-term positive economic impacts on local communities. For example, at the outset of the project, the actual pipe must be made, which means more business for steel manufactures and American pipe producers like Dura-Bond, which is located in my congressional district. Following completion of the project, businesses will have easier access to a reliable and affordable heat and power source. This will mean they can put more money towards hiring employees and growing their companies.

While it is evident that this project could have significant financial benefits for the region, I also recognize that ensuring the safety and wellbeing of my constituents is of the utmost importance. That's why I was proud to support the Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety (PIPES) Act, which improves safety by closing gaps in federal standards and promotes better use of data and technology to improve pipeline safety and was signed into law last month. Importantly, the law includes an amendment I offered that protects the ability of states to use their own pipeline

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inspectors when dealing with federal agencies – providing states greater flexibility to keep pipelines (and residents) safe.

In terms of safety related to the PennEast Project, in your review, please ensure PennEast is meeting or exceeding all safety standards, and that PennEast is not only protecting against public health impacts, but also minimizing and avoiding environmental impacts wherever possible.

Last October, I joined with eleven of my Pennsylvania colleagues in writing FERC Chairman Norman Bay to outline the need to close the Northeast's natural gas infrastructure gap. Our comment that, "While it's impressive to boast about having the country's highest proved natural gas reserves, without the necessary takeaway capacity to deliver those reserves to market, businesses and families in this region are missing out on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," still holds true. That's why I would like to reiterate my support for natural gas infrastructure projects which provide long-term economic and environmental benefits to the communities they serve, and request that such projects, including the PennEast Pipeline, are expeditiously reviewed.

I thank you for your kind consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lou Barletta".

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

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