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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

July 6, 2016

FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

MATT CARTWRIGHT
17TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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FEDERAL LANDS

DEMOCRATIC REGIONAL WHIP

The Honorable Norman C. Bay
Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Bay,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission review of the proposed PennEast Pipeline. Foreseeably, there would be significant and irreversible long term negative impacts to land, air quality, animals, recreation, agriculture, forests, neighborhoods, wetlands, and vegetation in the vicinity of the project. Given this, the project should not move forward in the absence of substantial evidence of public need.

The pipeline's effects on natural resources and communities within my Congressional district include preserved public lands such as Hickory Run State Park and Weiser State Forest, and will affect many waterways including Mud Run, Yellow Run, Stony Creek, Wild Creek, the Lehigh River and Beltzville Lake. Furthermore, Carbon County Planning Commissioners have expressed that PennEast/UGI project "is not consistent with the adopted county or multi-county comprehensive plan and is not in compliance with the various Kidder Township, DEP [Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection] and/or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ordinances or regulatory requirements." Dozens of constituents in Carbon and Luzerne counties have posted comments to the FERC website concerning the negative environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the pipeline. Hundreds along the route have registered as intervenors in opposition to the project. At least six municipalities along the route in Carbon and Luzerne counties have passed resolutions opposing the project. These numbers speak for themselves.

I strongly support the call for a full evidentiary hearing to determine whether there is legitimate public need for the project. FERC has a responsibility to verify public need for and benefit of a project before proceeding with an environmental impact statement and issuing a certificate. Eminent domain should not be conferred to a private company to take private and preserved lands unless there is a clear public need for the project. FERC should not rely on self-dealing contracts between the owners of PennEast and their affiliates as a foundation for finding market need.

I make this request with respect for the mission and responsibilities of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress