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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION



Greater Wilkes-Barre
CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE

March 8, 2016

Secretary Kimberly Bose
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426
Docket: CP15-558-000

Dear Secretary Bose:

On behalf of the hundreds of member organizations and businesses at the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce, I am writing in support of the PennEast Pipeline Project. This project will bring jobs and long-term economic benefits to eastern Pennsylvania and throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

Our region has greatly benefitted from safe and responsible development of natural gas. So much so, that we are now facing a surplus of supply with insufficient infrastructure in place to get this domestic fuel to underserved areas. Pipeline projects like PennEast will help relieve the bottleneck that's been created, allowing other businesses to enjoy the advantages of cleaner, abundant natural gas.

Our local businesses are taking advantage of this lower cost fuel source, and in return, are able to reinvest those savings back into operations, hire more employees, and make their businesses more competitive. These benefits are especially evident in industries that use high amounts of energy like manufacturers and chemical companies.

Additionally, more and more we are seeing natural gas used for electric generation at facilities like UGI's Hunlock Creek Energy Center, which was converted from coal to natural gas in 2011. The plant is now cleaner and more efficient, with the ability to power more than 100,000 homes, three times more than when it was fueled by coal. By using low-cost natural gas to produce electricity, the cost of electricity is driven down, benefitting everyone.

A great example of the relationship between natural gas and electricity costs is evident in an analysis of projected savings by PennEast. Had PennEast been operating during the 2013-2014 winter, electric consumers in eastern Pennsylvania would've saved nearly \$300 million – that's exclusive of Pennsylvania natural gas savings, and electric and gas savings in New Jersey.

In order to continue reaping the benefits of domestic natural gas supplies (i.e. affordable energy prices, cleaner more efficient energy generation, and business growth), the infrastructure to transport natural gas must be in place. We respectfully ask that you approve this project.

Sincerely,

Wico van Genderen
President/Chief Executive Officer
Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce

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