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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

May 26, 2016

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

Re: Docket No. CP15-558-000, PennEast Pipeline Project

Dear Secretary Bose:

As Chairman of Pennsylvania's House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, along with serving on the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, I know we can protect the character of rural communities, ensure productive agricultural lands, and at the same time produce and transport energy. That's why I write to support the PennEast Pipeline Project.

There have been assertions that natural gas pipeline infrastructure degrades agricultural lands, but this has not been my experience. As the Commission no doubt knows, natural gas pipelines have delivered fuels across America (and its farmlands) for decades - including here in Pennsylvania.

Subsequently, I have reviewed PennEast's Agricultural Impact Minimization Plan. PennEast's construction procedures, from segregating 12 inches of topsoil to constructing the pipeline with a minimum cover of four feet, meet or exceed industry best practices. Most important is PennEast's yield monitoring to ensure the reestablishment of agricultural land productivity following construction. Should the Commission be aware of additional best practices with respect to agricultural lands, please work with PennEast to incorporate these as applicable.

There is a great need and demand for additional and reliable natural gas supplies in the mid-Atlantic and northeast marketplace. And there's no better pathway to economic development and the creation of good, family-sustaining jobs than serving that demand, putting local energy to work in local communities.

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I firmly believe a rising tide lifts all boats. By moving affordable, homegrown natural gas to eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the region's economy will prosper. PennEast's role in lowering energy costs (both consumers' electricity and natural gas bills) will put more money in our families and businesses' bank accounts. This will be invested and spent in other parts of the economy, expanding our tax base and spurring growth.

Following the Commission's review, I hope it agrees that the PennEast Pipeline can be built safely, and that it's a significant step forward in the region's energy and economic future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin T. Causer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Martin T. Causer

State Representative

67th Legislative District

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