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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

March 29, 2016

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

Re – Docket: CP15-558-000

Dear Secretary Bose:

From my work on the Pennsylvania House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to serving as co-chair of the House Gas and Oil Caucus and beyond, I understand the important role the natural gas industry has played in not only our 10th Legislative District, but throughout Pennsylvania over the past decade.

Low, stable prices have enabled families to save on energy bills and have allowed businesses to use energy savings to bolster their operations. Accessibility to this low-cost, clean burning fuel has made our state attractive to large energy users such as manufacturing and chemical industries – and their well-paying jobs. Not to mention the fact that that the commonwealth has greatly benefited from tax revenue and hundreds of millions of dollars in impact fees.

We are seeing exciting opportunities today that are revitalizing all corners of the commonwealth thanks to abundant natural gas – opportunities that we haven't seen since steel mills were major employers, like the one my father worked for in Beaver County that was shuttered in the early 1980s.

I also understand how vital the implementation of new natural gas infrastructure, such as the proposed PennEast Pipeline, is for the continued success of the industry and economic well-being of our state.

As we have seen natural gas prices fall to historic levels in producing areas of Pennsylvania, it has been a blessing for consumers but a double-edge sword for those in the industry. Part of the problem is lack of infrastructure available to move our local supplies of natural gas to other non-producing areas that need it, like Southeast Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The PennEast Pipeline would help to address this issue. Originating in Luzerne County, the pipeline would travel 118 miles southeast into Mercer County, New Jersey. In this region it is not uncommon to experience price spikes at times of high demand – like on extremely hot or cold days. Looking at the cold days of the 2013-2014 winter, analysts found that natural gas and electricity customers in Pennsylvania and New Jersey could have seen \$893 million in energy savings had PennEast been available during that time.

Just as I have urged that the development of natural gas be done responsibly and safely, I ask that you approve this project under the same standards and guidelines. With this important balance in mind, I hope you make the right decision to move forward with the PennEast Pipeline, as I believe it will keep our state and county moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jaret A. Gibbons
Jaret A. Gibbons, Member
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
10th Legislative District

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