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March 10, 2016

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

OFFICE OF  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
2016 MAR 15 P 4:45  
FEDERAL ENERGY  
REGULATORY COMMISSION

Re: PennEast Pipeline Project, Docket Number CP15-558-000

Dear Secretary Bose,

For more than 20 years I have had the privilege of serving communities in northeastern Pennsylvania's 111<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. During that time I've worked on a multitude of issues to help Susquehanna and Wayne Counties local economies. While at times we've struggled with high unemployment, over the last six years residents have steadily been going back to work. And as of December, unemployment rates in Susquehanna and Wayne Counties were reported at 4.6 and 4.8 percent respectively.

That's good recent news, but if you look back at the last several years, there is a notable difference between Susquehanna and Wayne County unemployment rates. This is partially attributable to Wayne County being unable to develop its natural gas reserves (due to restrictions by the Delaware River Basin Commission).

What can be gleaned from this is the economic power of natural gas development. The record low prices we're seeing, from Marcellus producing trading points to the Henry Hub, are great for consumers, but development is also highly beneficial to the local economies where production takes place.

Additionally, just because trading points where natural gas is sourced (typically rural areas) are at all-time lows, that doesn't necessarily translate into consistent low prices for more-populated cities and counties, where transmission pipeline congestion is much more prevalent. That's why new pipelines, like the PennEast Pipeline Project, are important. We need to ensure there is enough capacity so natural gas can reach communities,

manufacturers and power generators during times of peak demand, such as hot summer and frigid winter months, at an affordable price.

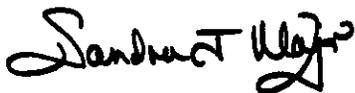
Additionally, building additional pipeline capacity will:

- Help with long-term energy planning and economic development throughout the region;
- Support steady natural gas production in Pennsylvania's northern tier; and,
- Enable the continued use of natural gas, especially in our power sector, which will deliver continued environmental benefits.

That said, I expect the commission will ensure that PennEast will construct their pipeline with safety measures and environmental protection protocols which meet or exceed regulatory requirements.

In closing, please join me in supporting the PennEast Pipeline Project and the responsible modernization of the region's natural gas delivery system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra J. Major". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a stylized "J" and "M".

Sandra J. Major  
State Representative  
111<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

SJM/jfg

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