



NEW JERSEY SENATE

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PARTS OF MORRIS AND

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COMMITTEES:

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

LABOR

JOINT BUDGET OVERSIGHT

January 4, 2017

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

Re: Docket No. CP15-558-000

Dear Secretary Bose:

I've been proud to serve the residents of Morris and Somerset Counties as a State Senator for the last eighteen years. I have always fought for smart, common sense policies that reduce costs for the families and seniors in my district and across New Jersey. No matter where I go, the concerns I hear are always the same: New Jersey is too expensive, taxes are too high, please help make our state affordable.

Accessing lower cost energy is one way we can help deliver results. The New Jersey Energy Master Plan, for example, has called for increased natural gas infrastructure to fuel more gas-fired electric generation. This achieves two major benefits: lower electric costs which currently rank 10th highest in the nation, and cleaner air by avoiding carbon-heavy fuels like coal and oil for electric power generation.

The proposed PennEast Pipeline is a responsible solution to meet growing demand for clean, affordable energy, improved reliability in our state's energy infrastructure, and lowering costs.

This billion dollar project will create thousands of good-paying jobs, directly access the abundant supply of American energy just beyond our state's borders in Pennsylvania, and protect our quality of life by strengthening the systems that power our homes and businesses. One economic study found this one pipeline would have saved New Jersey families and

businesses \$378 million during the 2013-2014 winter season. Those are benefits we just can't ignore.

All four gas utility companies in New Jersey are subscribed to the natural gas in the pipeline years before it's approved and built, and every major business and labor organization in the state, including the Morris County Chamber of Commerce, is supporting its construction. The demand is clear.

Additionally, while I am a part-time legislator, my professional background is as the owner of a small manufacturing business that consumes large quantities of electricity. I know first-hand that energy costs can and do fluctuate, which present significant financial challenges to the bottom line of businesses like mine. Providing more stable, reliable and lower cost energy not only helps manufacturing businesses continue to grow and provide good middle class jobs, it makes it easier for business leaders no matter the industry to decide to invest, grow or stay in New Jersey. This has important trickle-down impacts for hard-working families who need good jobs to make ends meet.

I firmly believe that bringing down the cost of energy – in particular electricity – will help bring good middle class jobs back to New Jersey.

This is a project that clearly meets the public need for decades to come, and will provide important benefits to the state's 8 million residents that protect the quality of life we have come to expect and enjoy.

I ask that the Commission staff thoughtfully review the project on its merits, and move quickly to approve this project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Bucco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Anthony R. Bucco
State Senator
New Jersey, District 25

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