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Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

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PREPAREDNESS**

senatorbartolotta.com

April 1, 2016

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

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

Dear Secretary Bose:

For the past decade, the safe and responsible development of natural gas across Pennsylvania has had a profound impact on the commonwealth and has chartered a new course for the state. Natural gas has gone from scarcity to abundance. Where we once were dependent on importing natural gas from other states, we now produce roughly four times the amount Pennsylvania consumes. From production related jobs to lower and stable energy costs, and from its role as an electric generation fuel to impact fee disbursements, every county and local economy in Pennsylvania has in some way realized the benefits of Pennsylvania's modern natural gas-fueled economy.

However, after years of growth, a variety of factors have depressed Marcellus area natural gas prices to record lows. And unfortunately these record low prices aren't always fully realized in the "market areas." One major factor is adequate pipeline capacity to transport gas to communities that are underserved. The proposed PennEast Pipeline is one piece of the solution.

The project will transport natural gas from northeast Pennsylvania where natural gas is plentiful to communities in eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey where a lack of natural gas availability has led to price spikes on days of high energy demand. A year ago PennEast examined what the savings to consumers would have been in the winter of 2013-2014 had PennEast's capacity been in-service. Remarkably, analysts found natural gas and electricity customers in Pennsylvania and New Jersey could have seen \$893 million in energy savings had PennEast been available.

As public officials, we're keenly aware of economic development initiatives. And its rare to have opportunities come along to infuse more than \$800 million back into the pockets of local families and businesses at no cost to taxpayers.

**OFFICE OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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FEDERAL ENERGY
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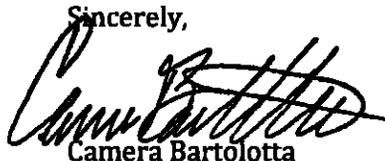
Kimberly D. Bose
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That said, we too understand the balance of building out necessary infrastructure like PennEast while protecting the environment and addressing local concerns. This balance led to Governor Wolf establishing a Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force that included more than a hundred leaders representing industry, government, business, landowners and environmental advocates. In other words, we've all come together to make sure infrastructure is done right.

In our respective roles in the Environmental Resource & Energy Committee, and as Co-Chairs of Pennsylvania's Senate Gas and Oil Caucus, we've worked to balance responsible energy development while protecting our land and resources. I hope that you do the same in your review of PennEast's application, and approve this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Camera Bartolotta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "B".

Camera Bartolotta

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