

CP15-558

NEW JERSEY SENATE



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AND SENIOR CITIZENS

April 27, 2016

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Secretary Bose,

I am a New Jersey State Senator, and as Chairman of the Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee and former member of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee, I write with concern regarding the proposed PennEast 118-mile natural gas pipeline which would run along the western border of our state.

The pipeline would cut through preserved open space and farmland; and sit atop of the aquifer that supplies drinking water to more than 1.5 million residents. The construction and operation would compromise both surface and ground water. It is evident that that more research should is required to ensure the pipeline would not negatively impact the environment, the health of residents, preservation efforts, and our regional economy which is tourism driven.

I urge the FERC to suspend its NEPA review process of this application until PennEast can provide the data and analysis required to properly assess the potential risk and significant environmental and economic impact of the pipeline.

PennEast cites a need to supply more natural gas to New Jersey, but a report by Skipping Stone, a nationally recognized energy consulting firm, refutes this claim and reports that natural gas distribution companies in the region have 50% more delivery capacity than needed to service customers. I also request that the FERC hold an evidentiary hearing to determine if PennEast can prove public need.

We should not be investing in inflexible expensive fossil fuels, but exploring more options for clean, renewable energy sources – funding the continued research and development of wind and solar energy initiatives.

Sincerely,

Jim Whelan
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