

CP 15-558



## NEW JERSEY SENATE

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August 25, 2016

Honorable Norman Bay, Chair  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Bay:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the PennEast Pipeline and the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). The destruction of New Jersey and Pennsylvania's natural and historic heritage is an issue of paramount concern and something that government at all levels have allowed to occur for far too long. It is imperative that cautious and careful analysis is executed in order to safeguard our environment and the interests of our communities. However, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) incomprehensive field survey of lands affected by the PennEast Pipeline project has left much to be desired in the DEIS, which is intended to provide an unbiased overview of cumulative impacts in such undertakings.

Regrettably, FERC has a history of myopic reporting, often glossing over the cumulative impacts or public need for a pipeline project, without proper analysis of reasonable alternatives. FERC's lack of transparency undermines the public's trust, and its preferential treatment for the natural gas pipeline industry has only served to benefit the gas companies without regard for public interest. FERC prematurely released DEIS, and it is evident that the document lacks a full scope of alternatives and substantial data on environmental impacts. In my opinion these oversights make the DEIS incomplete and invalid.

Historically, we as a nation have neglected the environment in order to meet industry demands. While past policy supported the natural gas pipeline industry as a cleaner source of energy, current policy no longer supports this idea. Past ignorance does not make the demands of PennEast permissible today. Dedicating our resources to pipeline construction impedes the development of newer, cleaner sources of energy. We must learn from the past and evaluate energy infrastructure in a way that respects ecosystems, natural heritage, and historical landmarks that once lost can never be made whole again. Government and private enterprise together should be looking toward meeting future energy demands with renewable energy resources, not defaulting to what is plentiful and cheap today.

New Jersey has adopted stringent environmental quality regulations, and the lax federal pipeline approval process undermines New Jersey's standards. The "profit at all costs" mentality that drives this project disrespects our local governments, citizens and taxpayers and endangers the health and safety of our communities and ecosystems. No company, nor federal government representative, should coerce citizens into acting against the best interests of their communities.

I stand with landowners, conservationists, concerned citizens and taxpayers in opposition to the PennEast Pipeline, and I urge you to reconsider your issuance of the DEIS. To come to a conclusion on the viability of this project without the necessary, factual data is a disservice to our local governments and communities. I respectfully ask that FERC withdraw its DEIS, and conduct a thorough field survey.

Sincerely,

Shirley K. Turner  
Senator - 15<sup>th</sup> District

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