



C.A.R.E. (Climate Abuse Resistance Education): “Just Say No” to Fossil Fuels by Stopping the PennEast Pipeline

New Jersey and several other states face a critical choice right now: Whether to continue investing in new methane pipelines that will deepen their dependence on outdated fossil fuels, *or* transition to clean, locally-produced, renewable energy, which will not further damage our environment. What they choose will shape the future of the regional economy and environs for decades, if not longer.

The World Business Academy is a non-profit business think tank, action incubator, and network of business and thought leaders. Our Mission is to inspire business to assume responsibility for the whole of society and assist those in business who share our values. Due to the scope and urgency of climate change, this is the Academy’s primary focus currently. As we approach the climate tipping point, we either must shift to safe energy *or* Earth will become uninhabitable. The good news is the technology and the capital to solve the problem both exist—we just need to deploy these solutions correctly. The first step, however, is to avoid throwing good money after bad by investing in antiquated fossil fuel infrastructure.

For this reason, we oppose the proposed PennEast pipeline. The cost and limited returns of this project do not justify the damage it will cause to the local environment and the climate. Instead we ask that you join us and stand for the future: a new paradigm for energy that does not emit harmful greenhouse gases or damaging particulates that cause widespread health impacts.

Now is the time to begin this transition; instead of investing in the old paradigm of dirty, centralized energy systems, such as methane pipelines, we should build the systems of the 21st century, such as microgrids, fuel cells, energy storage systems, and the infrastructure needed to shift peak energy demand, increase efficiency, and charge electric vehicles.

All of the needed technology exists—in fact it will even save money. With recent innovation in the financing of renewable energy, the upfront costs are no longer prohibitive. Additionally renewable energy is predictable, meaning the wild price fluctuations inherent to fossil fuel markets will no longer impact the budgets of residents and local governments.

Fossil fuel energy companies, which are currently invested in the old way of doing business, typically say and do anything to continue their business model. Claims of job growth and local tax revenue are almost always inflated. These analyses seldom offer a comparison between the promised returns of their preferred fossil fuel project and the returns of a renewable energy project of similar scale. This is

because the renewable projects create more jobs, create predictability in electricity prices, and have zero negative-health impacts.

Both Pennsylvania and New Jersey have significant untapped renewable energy potential. Instead of building yet another pipeline, we ask that you consider embracing the future.

New Jersey is literally in the bull's eye of climate change. Hurricane Sandy caused over \$29 billion in estimated damages, and disrupted lives across New Jersey in ways that cannot be fully measured. Building new energy systems that cause climate change can no longer be tolerated, especially in a state that will get hit again. And again. And again.

Leaders must listen to their constituents. In independent polling of small business owners released by the American Sustainable Business Council in 2014, 87% of business owners named one or more consequences of climate change as potentially harmful to their businesses. Likewise, 53% think extreme weather has, or will have, negative impact on their businesses. One in five said it already had. Importantly, 50 percent of the respondents in this survey were self-identified Republicans.

We call on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to evaluate renewable energy alternatives in any review of fossil fuel infrastructure projects. This is especially critical for New Jersey, a state that has to transition away from gas power plants in order to reduce carbon emissions, which increased 17% in 2014 due to increased emissions from gas-fired power plants. Doubling down on new pipelines is the wrong choice for New Jersey's economy.

In the absence of a thorough and comprehensive assessment of public need, cumulative impacts, and exploration of alternatives like renewables, we're calling on FERC to block the proposed PennEast Pipeline project. If FERC and fossil fuel industry representatives cannot say definitively that this pipeline is in the public and economic interest of the broadest set of businesses, it must be stopped.

In addition, PennEast should be required to study how to build the pipeline capable of carrying pure hydrogen in the future so it can become part of the new energy infrastructure. It won't delay the project much, it won't cost much more, and it will make the asset useful going forward into the non-fossil fuel economy that is coming.

Now is the time to embrace an energy system that does not harm residents, business, and the economy as a whole. Now is the time to stop building fossil fuel infrastructure and to instead embrace renewable energy. If not us, who? And if not now, when?

Matt Renner,



Executive Director World Business Academy