

GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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November 23, 2015

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

FILED
SECRETARY OF THE
COMMISSION
2015 DEC -1 A 9 30
FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

RE: Docket CP15-558-000 Application of PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Related Authorizations

Dear Secretary Bose:

On behalf of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce (GPCC), I write in support of the PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC's proposed PennEast Project. This project would bring a greater supply of natural gas to the mid-Atlantic region, create significant market savings to natural gas and electric customers, and create thousands of jobs and economic activity for our region.

Pennsylvania is the fastest growing natural gas producing state in the United States due to the Marcellus Shale formation. In 2015, gross production of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale was in excess of 15 billion cubic feet, a level of production that has an estimated 100-year reserve life in the formation. In order to capitalize on this natural gas boom, GPCC formed the Greater Philadelphia Energy Action Team (GPEAT) in 2013 to foster demand growth for natural gas in the Greater Philadelphia region and stimulate the development of infrastructure to transport and store natural gas in the region with the ultimate goal of creating an energy hub. GPEAT is an established, multi-sector partnership that is supported and staffed by GPCC and its affiliates, the CEO Council for Growth and Select Greater Philadelphia.

In January 2016, GPEAT will issue, *Building the Nation's Next Energy Hub: Greater Philadelphia Energy Action Team Pipeline Master Plan*, a report outlining the strategy to further the development of pipeline capacity and create an energy hub in the Greater Philadelphia region. Within this report we consider the economic benefits of several proposed pipelines, including PennEast, within our region and their impact on downstream markets. These markets include the petrochemical industry, energy-intensive manufacturing operations, power generation and CNG and LNG operations. As the introduction of legislation like the Clean Power Plan grows, demands for natural gas will only increase as coal-fired plants retire. Infrastructure development like the PennEast Project is necessary to supply Marcellus natural gas to the Greater Philadelphia region to attract new businesses and manufacturing operations.

The job creation numbers associated with pipeline development cannot be ignored. According to a study by Econsult Solutions, construction of the 118-mile natural gas pipeline would create more than 12,000 jobs and provide a one-time impact of \$1.6 billion for the regional economy. Ongoing operations of the pipeline provide a total regional economic impact of \$23 million, supporting about 100 jobs with \$8.3 million in wages.

For all of these reasons, I urge the Commission to grant the PennEast Pipeline the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Wonderling
President & CEO

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