



LEHIGH VALLEY
economic development

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

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

Secretary Bose,

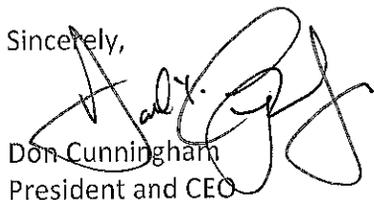
On behalf of the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC), whose mission is to market the economic assets of the Lehigh Valley and to serve as a regional shared services and resource center to help businesses to come, grow, and start in the region, I am writing to convey LVEDC's reaffirmed support, in light of the draft environmental impact statement, for the proposed PennEast Pipeline project, in accordance with the new docket number.

We work every day with companies entering the Lehigh Valley market or looking to find ways to be more competitive and to expand on site. The availability and affordability of natural gas as a source of energy is a critical cornerstone of the economic growth foundation. The proposed 114-mile pipeline will be a critical piece of the region's energy infrastructure. LVEDC realizes that good infrastructure: rails, highways and pipelines is vital to economic growth and job creation. Infrastructure construction also generates significant direct economic activities. The PennEast Pipeline is estimated to generate about \$1.4 billion in investment in the Lehigh Valley region, creating about 12,160 jobs during the project. It is expected that half of those jobs will employ Lehigh Valley workers.

Even more importantly, the PennEast Pipeline would improve the diversity of energy resources in the region, providing clean, abundant, and low-cost natural gas to major manufacturers and high energy users along the pipeline route. It will also provide natural gas to power plants in the PJM ISO, potentially bringing down the cost of electricity across the entire grid. Low-cost energy and reasonable electric power costs are some of the key elements that companies analyze when they are making decisions to grow in or move their operations to a specific region.

For that reason, we write in support of the project. The Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corp. is a public-private coalition of large employers, key regional institutions and county and municipal governments banded together to advance job creation and economic growth in the counties of Lehigh and Northampton in Eastern Pennsylvania. On behalf of our Board of Directors, I write to express LVEDC's support for the proposed PennEast Pipeline Project.

Sincerely,


Don Cunningham
President and CEO