



FILED  
SECRETARY OF THE  
COMMISSION

NEW JERSEY

2016 MAY 25 P 4: 36

May 6, 2016

FEDERAL ENERGY  
REGULATORY COMMISSION

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20042

 ORIGINAL

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

Dear Secretary Bose:

On behalf of the New Jersey chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) and our thousands of small business members around the Garden State, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed PennEast pipeline.

Our reason in supporting this important regional energy infrastructure project is simple: When completed, the PennEast Pipeline will increase New Jersey's supply of cleaner-burning, locally-sourced natural gas, and help lower energy costs for small businesses. Over ninety percent of the pipeline is subscribed, including from all four New Jersey gas companies.

Energy costs – and the volatility of energy pricing – are a 'real time' concern for NFIB members. Over the past decades, our members have invested tens-of-thousands of dollars in high-efficiency equipment and technologies, but the biggest piece of the energy puzzle is volatility in energy pricing. A recent study by Concentric Energy found that had the PennEast Pipeline been in service in 2013-2014, New Jersey consumers would have seen at a minimum over \$375 million in savings during peak periods of demand in one winter season alone. Most of those savings would have come from stabilizing electricity pricing in the Garden State.

These real savings – from just one season – can help our economy grow over the long-term.

Additionally, this \$1 billion major infrastructure investment in our region will not only create thousands of jobs, but also have important secondary impacts across multiple sectors from construction and planning, to hospitality, professional services and more. It is these types of projects that keep the entire economy moving forward, and positions New Jersey for a more competitive marketplace in the future.

Small and medium-size businesses in our region need every economic benefit they can find, and lower, more stable energy pricing is good news for local employers. PennEast, and the new supply of clean-burning natural gas it will bring to New Jersey homes and businesses, is good for working families, good our economy, and good for our environment.

Our energy future begins now. NFIB New Jersey is pleased to support PennEast's application to FERC and hope the Commission will move quickly to approve the PennEast Pipeline.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laurie Ehlbeck".

Laurie Ehlbeck  
State Director, NFIB/NJ

National Federation of Independent Business

118 S Warren Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor • Trenton, New Jersey • 609-989-8777 • Fax 609-393-0781 • [www.NFIB.com/NJ](http://www.NFIB.com/NJ)

Document Content(s)

14256841.tif.....1-2