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May 18, 2016

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

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

Dear Secretary Bose:

It's no secret that pipeline capacity has lagged behind robust natural gas production in Pennsylvania. That's why I'm writing, to echo the bipartisan comments of many of my Pennsylvania General Assembly colleagues in support of the PennEast Pipeline Project.

I have had the privilege of serving the families of the 68th Legislative District since the dawn of Pennsylvania's shale renaissance. Over the past few years we've seen dramatic natural gas production, especially in Bradford and Tioga Counties, which alongside Potter County, comprise the 68th District. By the numbers, in 2015 Bradford and Tioga Counties produced 918 billion cubic feet of natural gas – roughly 20 percent of the commonwealth's total production for 2015.

With this escalated production, Pennsylvania's General Assembly has recognized the potential impacts to local communities and our environment. That's why I am proud to have been a strong proponent of Act 13 of 2012 (legislation that emerged out of more than a year of extensive debate), which not only established Pennsylvania's "impact fee," but also strengthened environmental protections. Protections include enacting one of the most aggressive and transparent hydraulic fracturing disclosure laws in the country, new setback distances, increased well bonding requirements, new well record requirements and much more.

Today, four years after Act 13 became law, Pennsylvania has been able to balance environmental protection with growing the commonwealth's economy. Across the state, communities are having conversations about how low-cost, reliable energy supplies can give them a competitive advantage. However, the competitive advantage can only be realized with additional, high-capacity natural gas "highways" like PennEast.

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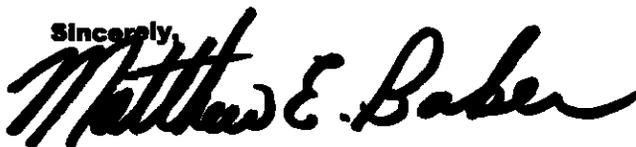
Pennsylvania has long been a natural gas importer, but today the state produces nearly five times as much as it uses. While I continue to advocate for in-state natural gas use, the fact is Pennsylvania could triple its consumption and still have more than a trillion cubic feet of excess supply. Without a doubt, we have plenty of supply to share with our neighbors to the north, east, south and west.

I'd like to emphasize that as we move energy supplies via pipeline, safety is paramount. And similar to safeguards surrounding natural gas development, equally important is ensuring pipeline safety. That's why I authored Act 127-the Gas and Hazardous Liquids Pipeline Act of 2011. This legislation, which passed unanimously by both chambers, expanded the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's authority to enforce federal pipeline safety laws, develop a pipeline registry and conduct pipeline safety inspections of all pipeline operators in the state.

In my review of the PennEast Project, I see this Project is more than a year-and-a-half in the making, including more than 100 route considerations and multiple route modifications. Given the ongoing environmental review by the Commission and other regulatory agencies, it is my hope the Commission finds the Project can be constructed safely to meet growing regional natural gas demand.

I offer my full support to PennEast Pipeline, and look forward to seeing this important new natural gas highway being built.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew E. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Matthew E. Baker
State Representative
68th Legislative District**

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