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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG
September 29, 2015

Norman C. Bay, Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Bay:

I am writing on behalf of a number of concerned citizens that reside in my legislative district, regarding the PennEast pipeline. I recently spoke with Bill Mineo, who resides in Williams Township in Pennsylvania, and provided an assessment of the current situation. I would like to take this opportunity to share his thoughts on this matter, as I feel it is a rational, well-informed assessment of the proposed pipeline.

To lessen the impact on properties, the pipeline should be located along existing utility easements, particularly along the Transcontinental easements which start and end at nearly the same locations proposed by PennEast. The proposed route of the pipeline unnecessarily impacts and disrupts protected private and public lands. The current proposal seems to target protected farms, preserved sensitive lands, and public parks. It seems that all of this is due to the fact that they have failed to collocate along existing easements and failed to research lands of lesser value such as landfill buffer zones, abandoned right of ways, and buffer zones of industrial properties.

It also appears that the PennEast pipeline will have a severe environmental cost in our area. The pipeline will have an impact on wooded steep slopes, wetlands, and wildlife habitat parks. This environmental cost is borne by all of us, who receive minimal compensation for a permanent disruption. At the very least, annual payments to landowners should be paid to offset a permanent loss.

Finally, why move natural gas from an area of Pennsylvania that needs jobs and industrial growth to an area in a neighboring state that has a significant excess of natural gas, is fully served, and which has tremendous existing industry?

I would appreciate any attention you can give to these concerns. Meanwhile, if there is anything further that I can do to assist in this matter, please feel free to call upon me.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Freeman
State Representative
136th Legislative District

RLF/blm

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