

CP 15-558

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June 6, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Bay:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's review of the proposed PennEast Pipeline. The pipeline could have significant impacts on natural resources and communities within my Congressional district, including the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River, preserved lands, the Cooks Creek Exceptional Value Watershed, and the drinking water supply for the Borough of Riegelsville. This project should not move forward in the absence of substantial evidence of public need.

I strongly support the call for a full evidentiary hearing to determine whether there is legitimate public need for the project. FERC has a responsibility to verify public need for and benefit of a project before proceeding with an environmental impact statement and issuing a certificate. Eminent Domain should not be conferred to a private company to take private and preserved lands unless there is a clear public need for the project. FERC should not rely on self-dealing contracts between the owners of PennEast and their affiliates as a foundation for finding market need.

I would appreciate if you would forward this to the appropriate individual for consideration. I look forward to your response. Please send it to Chris Matarangas at my Washington, D.C. Office.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Michael G. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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