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NEW JERSEY SENATE

CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

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November 7, 2014

Mr. Leonard Tao, Director
Office of External Affairs
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

2014 NOV 18 P 1:37
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
NEW JERSEY SENATE

Dear Mr. Tao:

I am writing on behalf of the residents of the 16th Legislative District with concern over the proposal by PennEast to build a natural gas pipeline through environmentally sensitive areas in New Jersey.

Parts of the proposed map have the pipeline going through preserved farmland and tracts of open space preserved by New Jersey tax dollars. Specifically, the proposed route goes directly through the Sourland Mountain region which includes the largest contiguous forest in central New Jersey. It also crosses various historic districts throughout the 16th District, including those on the Federal and National Register of Historic Places.

It is my understanding that there is the existence of alternate routes using existing utility rights of way which have not been explored. In addition, there are already three gas pipelines passing through Hunterdon County, while others are crossing through similar areas throughout the state.

We know there is a need for affordable, cleaner burning natural gas, we know there is a need to move away from the pollution of coal burning facilities. The conflict here is to balance the gain of affordable natural gas against the environmental damage to our farmland, forests, waterways and historic areas.

PennEast must be directed to come up with new maps that would not put our residents, and preserved land in danger. I would ask that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission address the concerns of the municipalities directly impacted before any approvals are granted.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kip', written over a horizontal line.

Christopher "Kip" Bateman

CSB:dj

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