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Congress of the United States

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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

PF15-1

Committee on Natural Resources
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Energy
and Mineral Resources

Committee on Education and
the Workforce

Founder and Co-Chair,
Research & Development Caucus

Co-Chair,
Historic Preservation Caucus

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St., N.E., Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Secretary Bose,

I am writing regarding the proposed PennEast pipeline (PF 15-01-000) and to request a full review and comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts and need for this project. It is absolutely essential that the review of this project takes into account the input of all concerned citizens and affected communities.

I understand that this project is in the very early stages of the FERC process. However, I have heard from many constituents expressing concerns regarding the pipeline. As you are aware, the PennEast pipeline as proposed would run from Pennsylvania into New Jersey and through Mercer County, which I represent.

As with any project to expand energy infrastructure there will be certain unavoidable impacts to the environment and in nearby communities. However, local residents point to more effects that would be truly deleterious. Initial concerns include how construction of this pipeline would negatively affect currently protected areas, preserved open spaces, and critical habitat for threatened or endangered species. Construction also has the potential to degrade water quality and agricultural productivity in the region. Concerns have also been raised related to the safety of the pipeline, both during construction and, if constructed, once the line is placed into service.

I would like to ensure adequate opportunities for concerned members of the community to affect the project. Considering that this will be a new pipeline spanning approximately 108-miles and crossing multiple states and water bodies, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be required as part of the review of this project. A full EIS will provide for additional input on the project, allow for sufficient public comment periods and provide interested parties an opportunity to comment on the findings of a draft EIS before the project is approved or denied. The EIS should consider an analysis of project alternatives, including a "no action" alternative.

Based on the numerous concerns that have been raised I am confident that there is a high level of public interest in the project. Please know that I will be following the progress of this project closely and am committed to supporting a robust public engagement process.

With regards,

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress

Document Content(s)

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