

TOWNSHIP OF KINGWOOD

Committee Meeting:
First Thursday of Each Month – 7pm
Municipal Building:
Corner of Rt. 519 & Oak Grove Rd.
Fax: (908) 996-7753



Address Reply To:
Mary E. MacConnell, RMC
P.O. Box 199
Baptistown, NJ 08803-0199
Phone: (908) 996-4276

June 19, 2017

Commissioner Robert Martin
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608

Re: PennEast Pipeline

Dear Commissioner Martin:

We, the undersigned county and local elected officials, are opposed to the PennEast Pipeline because it would have significant impacts on natural and historic resources, public health and safety, and ratepayers throughout the state. These impacts are unacceptable, especially given that PennEast has failed to demonstrate legitimate public need for the project.

Each township on the proposed route as well as both Hunterdon and Mercer Counties, have passed resolutions in opposition to the pipeline. The vast majority of impacted landowners are opposed. Numerous federal and state agencies have repeatedly expressed their concerns that this project is not needed and will cause significant damage to the environment that cannot simply be mitigated as FERC claims.

Our reasons for opposing PennEast include:

- The New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel has affirmed that there is no public need for the project, and that the pipeline is a “self-dealing” project. It would be built at the expense of ratepayers throughout New Jersey.
- It would damage thousands of acres of open space and farmland in which every New Jersey taxpayer has invested.
- It threatens to contaminate drinking water drawn from public and private wells with arsenic, as well as impact over 40 state-designated C-1 streams and the Delaware River.
- PennEast would not meet New Jersey’s more protective pipeline safety standards, placing residents and businesses at risk of a deadly explosion.
- The proposed pipeline would necessitate taking of a majority of the proposed route in New Jersey by invoking eminent domain, and would violate property rights for private gain.

This pipeline is unneeded, unwanted, unsafe and unfair to consumers throughout New Jersey. Numerous agencies have found the project’s applications, engineering and environmental impact statements to be misleading, inadequate, and incomplete. The need for this project has yet to be proven.

On April 6, PennEast submitted an incomplete and illegal application to the NJDEP for a Water Quality Certificate and a Freshwater Wetlands Individual Permit. We appreciate that on April 26th NJDEP found PennEast’s application to be incomplete.

We acknowledge NJDEP for repeatedly stating that it will not consider an application without all surveys completed and the required missing data and analyses. NJDEP's response to PennEast on April 26th and letter to FERC on May 23rd documented that this application is deficient in many ways and therefore administratively incomplete. If NJDEP does not receive all the required information by June 26, it must reject and administratively close the application.

We commend NJDEP's commitment to ensuring that PennEast receives the full and thorough review required under the exacting standards of the Clean Water Act and state regulations. We do not believe that PennEast can be constructed in a manner that would comply with these standards.

Thank you for considering our views on this matter.

Sincerely,

John E. Lanza, Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon.

John King, Deputy Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon

Mathew Holt, Hunterdon County Freeholder

Susanne Lagay, Hunterdon County Freeholder

Pasquale (Pat) Colavita Jr, Mercer County Freeholder

Mayor Paul Abraham, Alexandria Township, NJ

Mayor Dan Bush, Holland Township, NJ

Mayor John Dale, West Amwell Township, NJ

Mayor Charles Herman, Delaware Township, NJ

Mayor Chris Killmurray, South Brunswick Township, NJ

Mayor Janice Kovach, Town of Clinton, NJ

Mayor Phil Kramer, Franklin Township, NJ

Mayor Kevin Kuchinski, Hopewell Township, NJ

Mayor Liz Lempert, Princeton Township, NJ

Mayor Jeremy I. Liedka, Chesterfield Township, NJ

Mayor Phil Lubitz, Kingwood Township, NJ

Mayor Brad Myhre, Borough of Frenchtown, NJ

Mayor Charles Van Horne, East Amwell Township, NJ

Deputy Mayor Julie Blake, Hopewell Township, NJ

Deputy Mayor Steve Bergenfield, West Amwell, NJ

Deputy Mayor Richard Dodds, Kingwood Township, NJ

Deputy Mayor Dart Sageser, East Amwell Township, NJ

Deputy Mayor Sam Thompson, Delaware Township, NJ

James Cally, Committee Member, West Amwell Township, NJ

Alan Johnson, Committee Member, Delaware Township, NJ

Jill Popko, Committee Member, Bordentown Township, NJ

Len Resto, Councilman, Borough of Chatham, NJ

Zach Rich, Committee Member, West Amwell Township, NJ

Rita Romeau, Committee Member, Chesterfield Township, NJ

Vanessa Sandom, Committee Member, Hopewell Township, NJ

Joe Vocke, Committee Member, Delaware Township, NJ

c: John Gray, Esq.

Ruth Foster

Robin Madden

Diane Dow

David Pepe

Chris Squazzo