



The New Jersey  
NATURAL LANDS TRUST

February 9, 2018

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Docket# CP15-558

Dear Secretary Bose:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust (NJNLT), a state agency in, but not of, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), requesting reconsideration of FERC's January 19, 2018 issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (Certificate) that is conditioned on additional state and federal permits and approvals to PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC (PennEast).

In its comments dated August 12, 2016 and November 29, 2016, the NJNLT challenged FERC's claim in the EIS that public benefits outweigh the negative impacts to landowners and the environment when the full impact to landowners and the environment cannot be known until the route has been finalized and permits received. FERC's issuance of a conditional Certificate raises these same concerns.

As stated in prior comments, the NJNLT strongly opposes, and will continue to oppose, PennEast's exercise of eminent domain to construct, operate, and maintain a pipeline at the Gravel Hill Preserve. Pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 13:1B-15.119 et seq.*, the NJNLT exercises public and essential government functions, "including the preservation of land in its natural state for enjoyment by the public and to protect elements of natural diversity." State resources were used to preserve **in perpetuity** the Gravel Hill Preserve as well as other lands on which the pipeline will be constructed. It is imperative that the State's commitment to the public to preserve land in perpetuity be respected. It is our understanding that PennEast specifically designed the route to avoid traversing lands preserved by federal easements, but is quite willing to trample upon preserved state lands.

As stated by the NJNLT in its August 12, 2016 and November 29, 2016 comments, the NJNLT was specifically created by the New Jersey Legislature in 1969 to preserve lands that protect the state's natural diversity such as endangered species habitat, rare natural features, and significant ecosystems and to ensure the protection of such lands from condemnation. If FERC's conditional Certificate confers the power of eminent domain to PennEast, it will mark the first time that a NJNLT preserve has been threatened by condemnation.

Based on the above, the NJNLT respectfully requests that FERC reconsider its issuance of the January 19, 2018 conditional Certificate to FERC.

Sincerely,



Michael Catania  
Chair

c: Medha Kochhar, FERC  
Anthony Cox, PennEast  
Marilyn Lennon, PS&S  
Kathleen Frangione, Chief Policy Advisor, Governor's Office  
David Miller, Office of Governor's Counsel  
Ruth Foster, NJDEP, PCER  
Rich Boornazian, NJDEP, NHRG  
Robin Madden, NJDEP, NHRG  
John Sacco, NJDEP, SFS  
Kate Marcopul, NJDEP, SHPO  
Robert J. Cartica, NJNLT