

As a resident of Pennsylvania, I recognize the Commonwealth is in dire need of a project like Atlantic Sunrise. The economic growth Pennsylvanians have enjoyed from the development of the Marcellus Shale is exceptional; supporting thousands of jobs and investing millions into the state economy. Countless businesses have benefitted from the natural gas industry and with projects like Atlantic Sunrise more opportunities and benefits are on the horizon.

We will see the benefits first hand from these critical projects brought to communities surrounding such infrastructure. The prospect of Atlantic Sunrise becoming a reality is truly exciting for businesses across the Commonwealth. In addition, the local schools and municipalities need the tax revenue from this project and the new businesses it will enable; Pennsylvanians need the job opportunities and business growth it will generate, and the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic markets need a safe reliable source of natural gas.

Atlantic Sunrise would help create even more opportunities in the project region and beyond. I urge you to approve the Chapter 102 and 105 permits for the Atlantic Sunrise project without delay ... which will drive new investment in Pennsylvania's future. By doing so, we increase our national security while ensuring our own energy independence through advanced technology using local workers, to develop an Pennsylvanian resource. And pipelines like the Atlantic Sunrise are a critical component to achieving American and Pennsylvanian growth.

Thanks in large part to the growing natural gas industry, regional unemployment has dropped, and future job growth over the next decade is expected to climb to almost 40 percent. This is not even mentioning the thousands of dollars Williams has awarded area non-profit organizations and first responders through grant programming. Considering the impressive impact Atlantic Sunrise would have, it seems irresponsible to turn our back on this opportunity.

Williams has been working with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) for more than two years, providing the data and information needed for the permit applications to be processed in a timely and efficient manner.

The Chapter 102 and 105 permit applications reflect the cooperation and collaboration Williams has demonstrated with PA DEP, as well as federal and state permitting agencies, to avoid or minimize impacts to wetlands, waterbodies and other sensitive environmental areas.

Williams has demonstrated its commitment to environmental stewardship by voluntarily funding more than \$2.5 million in local conservation projects. This funding was not designed to nor does it replace traditional compensatory mitigation requirements of state and federal permitting agencies.

Williams is a quality company looking to build and operate the project at the highest level.

Simply put, we are sitting on the cheapest and most cost-effective natural gas on the planet, and it only makes sense to allow this project to move ahead as we work to develop more ways to achieve energy independence. It is vital to our economic and energy future that Pennsylvania fully recognizes the critical need for this infrastructure. I encourage the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to issue the 102 and 105 permits without delay.

Thank you for your time this evening.

JERRY GEORGE

