



PENNSYLVANIA

June 12, 2017

Honorable Patrick McDonnell
Secretary
Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project, Chapter 102 and 105 Permits

Dear Secretary McDonnell:

The Pennsylvania chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) represents 14,000 small- and independent-businesses. On behalf of our members, I'm writing today in support of the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project. We urge the department to approve the Chapter 102 and 105 permits for the project without delay.

There are approximately 2.4 million workers employed by small businesses across Pennsylvania, and no matter the individual business size, energy costs affect operating budgets. Over the years, businesses have seen significant savings when switching to affordable natural gas. Those savings then can be injected into operations, stimulate growth and investment and ultimately strengthen our economy. That's why pipeline projects like Atlantic Sunrise are so important.

New infrastructure increases natural gas supplies in the marketplace, providing cost stability and reliability, as well as a low-cost and clean-burning fuel for electric power generation. The Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline will enable abundant, domestic natural gas to be transported from the robust producing areas in the Commonwealth's Marcellus Shale to consumers throughout the mid-Atlantic region to affordably fulfill energy needs.

We also recognize renewable forms of energy are an important part of our diverse energy portfolio; however, Americans need to be assured that the dominant energy fuel sources that makeup today's energy mix – like natural gas - are readily available and affordable. The Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline and other natural gas infrastructure projects throughout our country ensure that this is possible.

For these reasons and so many more, I ask you to help ensure a vibrant regional economy and approve the Chapter 102 and 105 permits for the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kevin Shivers
Executive State Director
NFIB/Pennsylvania