

BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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IN RE: PennEast Pipeline Permit Phase 1 Application

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BEFORE: Colleen Connolly
Darek Jagiela

HEARING: Wednesday, January 13, 2021
6:00 p.m.

WITNESSES: NONE

Reporter: BRIAN D. O'HARE

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MS. CONNOLLY: Okay. It's six o'clock. We're going to begin the public hearing, the virtual public hearing, if everyone is set to go.

Good evening everyone. My name is Colleen Connolly. I am the Community Relations Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Northeast Regional Office in Wilkes-Barre. And I am the moderator for tonight's virtual public hearing.

We are here tonight to take testimony regarding the permit application for Phase 1 of the PennEast Pipeline Project, which runs through four counties in Northeast PA; Carbon, Luzerne, Monroe, and Northampton.

The PennEast Pipeline Company has applied for two permits, as I said. Chapter 102, erosion and sediment control permits related to construction along the 68 mile long Phase 1 pipeline route, and Chapter 105, water obstruction and encroachment permit related to activities affecting streams and wetlands. Those permits are currently being reviewed by DEP's Regional Permit Coordination

1 Office and remain under review at this time.

2 Several staffers from the Regional
3 Permit Coordination Office are on the virtual public
4 meeting as well and are listening in. I'll
5 introduce them now. They are Dominic Rocco, the
6 head of our Regional Permit Coordination Office, and
7 his staffers, Rebecca Albert and Kevin White. They
8 are listening in to the hearing tonight.

9 This is a virtual public hearing to
10 take testimony only. We are doing this virtually
11 tonight due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to
12 thank you all for logging into our virtual hearing.
13 Part of the process of our work here at DEP is
14 listening to the public and any concerns they might
15 have regarding our permit application reviews.

16 The hearing is scheduled to go from
17 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. We want to move it along as
18 expeditiously as possible so everyone who registered
19 can have a chance to speak tonight.

20 There is a possibility this meeting
21 could go past 9:00 p.m. We'll take it as we go.

22 We have a few ground rules we'd like
23 to go over. All public hearings will be recorded by
24 a stenographer and become part of the official
25 public record relevant to the specific project.

1 Due to the nature of these formal
2 proceedings, DEP staff will not be able to address
3 questions tonight about the proposed action during
4 the hearing. As I indicated, this hearing is to
5 take testimony only.

6 Organizations are asked to designate
7 one commenter to present on its behalf if we have
8 that.

9 All participants will be muted until
10 it's time to provide public comments. Commentators
11 will be called upon and unmuted in the order in
12 which they are registered and they appear on the
13 list on my screen to speak.

14 When your name is called, please state
15 your name, city, state, and affiliation, if any, for
16 the record prior to presenting testimony. And
17 please spell any name or words not generally
18 familiar to assist the stenographer tonight.

19 Your testimony will be limited to
20 three minutes for each commentator, which will be
21 noted in the notice for the hearing. Please note
22 that written and spoken testimony are considered
23 equally by DEP.

24 I will be giving you a verbal time cue
25 of one minute and then 30 seconds to wrap up your

1 testimony. And as you can see, the three minutes
2 are on the screen.

3 You cannot relinquish your time to
4 other people. If you do not use the full three
5 minutes, you cannot relinquish that time.

6 Video demonstrations and screen
7 sharing by commentators and other on-screen
8 documents will not be permitted. Only spoken
9 comments will be recorded to the transcript tonight
10 at this virtual public hearing.

11 If any individual provides
12 inappropriate or threatening commentary during their
13 testimony, or in the chat box, a warning will be
14 issued. If the behavior continues, the commentator
15 will be disconnected from the WebEx by the host and
16 the facilitator.

17 Your mic will be muted at the end of
18 your designated time and your testimony. Should you
19 run out of time, you may submit additional comments
20 in writing.

21 If time permits, we will call on those
22 who registered as an observer if they would like to
23 offer testimony. We will call on them in the order
24 in which they request that time.

25 Okay.

1 I'm going to begin the hearing now.
2 If everyone is ready, I'm going to call the first
3 name on the list.

4 The first person to offer testimony
5 will be Christina Coleman.

6 MS. COLEMAN: Hey, Colleen, thank you.
7 I guess before I get started here, I just want to
8 confirm whether Rob Wonderling is on the phone. He
9 was going to be the one to speak on our
10 organization's behalf. And it does not appear so.
11 So I can go ahead and present that.

12 So good evening. I hope you can hear
13 me okay.

14 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes.

15 MS. COLEMAN: My name is Christina
16 Coleman. I manage the Chamber of Commerce for
17 Greater Philadelphia's Energy Work. The Chamber of
18 Commerce for Greater Philadelphia is a non-profit
19 business membership organization representing
20 businesses ranging from world-renowned Fortune 500
21 companies to small and mid-sized firms that
22 collectively employ more than 600,000 across the 11
23 county region of Greater Philadelphia.

24 And we all know that affordable energy
25 is the bedrock of our economy and especially

1 critical to a recovering one.

2 The PennEast Project will give our
3 region much needed reliability by alleviating
4 consumed pipeline constraints, leading to reduced
5 costs and stabilize energy prices, particularly
6 during peak heating season.

7 The benefits of PennEast are far
8 reaching. Additionally - additional energy access
9 will mean manufacturers of energy could consider
10 expanding their operations and growing jobs locally.
11 Energy insecure families will see lower bills.
12 Small businesses, schools, and hospitals wrecked by
13 the - by the havoc of this pandemic will have some
14 cost relief.

15 Moreover, our region's industrial
16 legacy, talent, and strategic location matched with
17 increased supply of affordable natural gas, which
18 positions Greater Philadelphia to draw new high-wage
19 manufacturing opportunities to our region, which
20 when they're needed most.

21 After a turbulent year with an
22 unemployment rate of 14.1 percent in our region, the
23 value of significant infrastructure projects like
24 PennEast cannot be overstated. This project will
25 play a key role in our region's economic recovery by

1 supporting over 9,290 jobs in the state, including
2 upwards of 2,500 construction jobs and an estimated
3 economic impact of more than one billion.

4 Economic and environmental progress is
5 achieved by building energy highways that safely and
6 efficiently resources to where they are needed so
7 that we can move away from higher carbon-emitting
8 fuels in the near term.

9 We feel the region is motivated by
10 environmental concerns should chose paths that steer
11 away from your infrastructure. And those
12 consequences and those decisions have hindered
13 prospects for growth, increased energy costs, and
14 threaten the reliability of the energy supply and
15 ruined immediate environmental gain.

16 Critics of PennEast have indicated the
17 need of our state to reduce its carbon footprint.
18 Let me be clear, they are completely right.
19 Unfortunately, objecting to projects like PennEast
20 do not improve our circumstances. Natural gas
21 delivered by PennEast will play a key role in our
22 clean energy future. The increased use of natural
23 gas, in combination with renewable energy and
24 efficiency has contributed to U.S. energy-related
25 carbon dioxide emission declining to the lowest

1 levels in 27 years.

2 In Pennsylvania, much of the progress
3 made in the last decade to reduce CO2 emissions has
4 occurred in the electric power sector due to the
5 increased use of natural gas to generate
6 electricity. Letting the good be the enemy of the
7 perfect slows the fight for climate balance. The
8 natural gas delivery system is flexible, reliable,
9 and versatile and enables increased integration of
10 renewable energy and power generation and other
11 applications.

12 As our world has been seemingly turned
13 upside down, our energy has remained a constant,
14 keeping our lives, businesses, communities and the
15 economy moving. Our region cannot afford to delay
16 the economic and environmental benefits that come
17 with a reliable supply of affordable natural gas
18 from PennEast.

19 The PennEast project has already
20 received many authorizations at the state and
21 federal level. For these reasons, I urge the DEP's
22 swift approval.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, Ms. Coleman.

25 And I do apologize. I couldn't get

1 the timer to start. But I think I've worked out the
2 issues. Thank you.

3 MS. COLEMAN: I appreciate it.

4 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you. If you can
5 mute your mic now, the next person on the list is
6 Carl Marrara. Carl Marrara.

7 MR. MARRARA: I'm here. Can you hear
8 me?

9 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, we can hear - yes,
10 we can hear you.

11 MR. MARRARA: Okay. Great. Great.
12 Great. Great. Thank you so much.

13 So my name is Carl Marrara. I'm the
14 Vice President of Government Affairs for the
15 Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association. We are the
16 statewide non-profit trade organization that
17 represents the people who make things here in our
18 Commonwealth. And I'm honored to comment today in
19 support of the PennEast pipeline project.
20 Manufacturers depend on affordable dry and liquid
21 gas to remain globally competitive. Under current
22 market constrictions, when there's a high demand for
23 gas, the priority is often given to residential and
24 institutional markets, leaving industry to have to
25 find alternative fuel sources that are often much

1 more expensive and a lot less environmentally sound.
2 Total natural gas demand is poised to increase by 40
3 percent over the next decade that researchers at the
4 National Association of Manufacturers found that the
5 key drivers of this demand will be manufacturing and
6 power generation.

7 Therefore, projects such as the
8 PennEast Pipeline Project are vitally important to
9 the productive sector of our Commonwealth's economy
10 as it - as one constructed, PennEast will move
11 approximately one billion cubic feet of gas every
12 day from the production areas to where it's most
13 needed to serve businesses and families.

14 Affordable gas is simply not hitting
15 the market because Pennsylvania lacks sufficient
16 pipeline network. Although 32 percent of America's
17 natural gas supply comes from here in Pennsylvania,
18 hundreds of our wells in our Commonwealth are
19 inactive or shut in. And one of the main reasons
20 that this happened is a lack of pipeline takeaway
21 capacity. Projects such as the PennEast Pipeline
22 Project open and expand markets, sustaining and
23 stabilizing the energy industry, and therefore
24 creating steady and predictable prices for large end
25 users, such as manufacturers.

1 Most importantly, the economic impact
2 of this project will have lasting results far beyond
3 the construction of the pipeline in the
4 manufacturing sector. According to a 2016 study by
5 the National Association of Manufacturers and IHS
6 Economics, it was stated that - and this is a direct
7 quote, the improved competitive position of
8 industries in the manufacturing sector is shaping
9 state and local economic development strategies
10 across the country. Increased supplies of natural
11 gas, especially at lower delivery prices enhances
12 the competitiveness of economies by making them more
13 attractive to manufacturing activities that are
14 large and intensive users of natural gas, such as
15 chemicals, food, paper, and metals.

16 MS. CONNOLLY: One minute.

17 MR. MARRARA: The close proximity of
18 existing clusters of manufacturing establishments to
19 increased natural gas supplies can generate new
20 pipeline related economic development, often because
21 of the availability of direct connections to new or
22 expanded gas pipelines.

23 The combination of increased access to
24 shale gas and the transmission lines that move
25 affordable energy meant 1.9 million jobs in 2015

1 alone.

2 This study proven economic boon can
3 and will benefit Pennsylvania as it has been
4 estimated the economic impact -

5 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds).

6 MR. MARRARA: - of just the
7 Pennsylvania portion of the PennEast Pipeline
8 Project will be more than \$1 billion, sustaining
9 tens of thousands of jobs.

10 Pennsylvania knows energy
11 independence. It always has and it always will.
12 But to fully realize the potential of shale gas,
13 Pennsylvania needs robust infrastructure
14 transmission. And that is why we support the
15 PennEast Pipeline Project. Thank you very much.

16 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, sir.

17 Next up on our list is Patrick
18 Henderson.

19 MR. HENDERSON: Good evening. And
20 thank you for the opportunity to provide comments at
21 today's virtual hearing. My name is Patrick
22 Henderson. I am presenting this testimony on behalf
23 of the Marcellus Shale Coalition.

24 The MSC was formed in 2008 and
25 represents the leading operators that are active in

1 Pennsylvania's unconventional natural gas industry,
2 as well as a supply consultant and professional
3 service companies that partner with the industry.

4 The MSC appreciates the opportunity to
5 participate in this virtual public hearing to
6 express its support for the Department's approval of
7 the Chapter 102 and 105 permits necessary to move
8 the PennEast Pipeline Project to fruition.

9 PennEast's application discusses in
10 great detail its efforts to work cooperatively with
11 the Department, as well as the U.S. Army Corps of
12 Engineers to reduce impacts on public land,
13 including federal and state parks, forests, and game
14 lands, by collocating with existing utility rights
15 of way, avoiding sensitive areas, and reducing land
16 temporarily disturbed during the construction phase.
17 At DEP's request, no soil will be stockpiled within
18 wetlands.

19 Additionally, extensive outreach to
20 landowners has been incorporated into this project,
21 including the opportunity for pre and post
22 construction water quality analysis for any resident
23 within 150 feet of the project, and extending out to
24 500 feet from those residing within a karst area.

25 Monitoring our water wells will also

1 be offered for landowners up to 1,000 feet away from
2 the construction area.

3 Once constructed and in operation,
4 PennEast has committed to maintaining only 30 feet
5 of their 50 foot right of way, allowing the balance
6 of area to restore itself to its natural habitat.
7 Enhanced restoration practices, including preferred
8 seed nexus, additional tree and shrub planting, and
9 extensive monitoring of wetlands and water courses
10 will ensure that the PennEast Pipeline path is a net
11 benefit to both conservation and wild habitat.

12 The production transport and use of
13 American natural gas is critical to our nation's
14 economy, public health, and national security.

15 MS. CONNOLLY: One minute.

16 MR. HENDERSON: The PennEast Project
17 alone will help to create and support thousands of
18 jobs while injecting more than \$1 billion into our
19 economy. Moreover, it will displace the need to
20 import natural gas from distant countries who too
21 often do not share the commitment to environmental
22 protection that we do here in Pennsylvania.

23 Let me be clear. We all, whether we
24 acknowledge it or not, rely upon and utilize natural
25 gas and natural gas products each and every day,

1 whether it's powering our electric grid, heating our
2 homes, fueling our manufacturers, providing the
3 myriad of consumer goods and electronics we use
4 daily -

5 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

6 MR. HENDERSON: - or serving as the
7 feed stop for critical healthcare products and
8 vaccines that will hopefully see us out of this
9 pandemic, the ability to produce and transport
10 domestic energy resources is in our nation's
11 interest.

12 For these reasons and because these
13 applications have met the rigorous standards of the
14 Department, we encourage the Department to approve
15 PennEast's permit, so that this project can move
16 forward expeditiously.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, sir.

19 Next up on the list is Kevin Sunday.
20 Mr. Sunday, are you there? Is your mic unmuted?

21 MR. SUNDAY: Yes. It just got
22 unmuted. Thank you.

23 MS. CONNOLLY: No problem. Go ahead.

24 MR. SUNDAY: Good evening everyone.
25 Thank you for the opportunity to comment. My name

1 is Kevin Sunday. I'm Director of Government Affairs
2 with the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and
3 Industry. We're the largest foundation business
4 advocacy organization in the Commonwealth. And we
5 support our members and seek to offer an environment
6 where job creation can happen in the state in a
7 responsible manner with stewardship for the
8 environment and natural resources.

9 Now, we view infrastructure buildup,
10 which as this project is core to recovering from
11 this pandemic, we know that the increased use of
12 gas, along with other abundant energy resources from
13 the state, has helped dramatically lower the
14 operating costs of manufacturers as well as the gas
15 and electric bills of families across the state, we
16 are saving more than a thousand dollars per year.

17 The energy prices in the PGM markets
18 are the lowest in the history of those markets
19 thanks to natural gas bringing some more competition
20 there. We think there's an awful lot more economic
21 gains to be had. We've accredited the Pittsburgh
22 and Philadelphia Chambers or the Pennsylvania
23 Manufacturers enforce the future initiative. As
24 part of that, we have an Economic Commission that
25 noticed the increased buildup of natural gas and use

1 through projects like this to help secure an
2 additional 100,000 jobs in the state and increase
3 state tax revenues by \$2 to \$3 billion by '23, in
4 which projects alone represent thousands of new jobs
5 and more than a billion dollars of investment into
6 the state's economy at a time where we need it more
7 than ever.

8 At the same time, we've seen
9 Pennsylvania reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in
10 terms of total climate by more than all but one
11 other state in the last number of decades. We've
12 made significant improvements in air quality in
13 terms of ambient concentrations of ozone point
14 source emissions.

15 The natural gas is a vital and
16 necessary piece to offer development of many
17 vaccines, medicines, medical devices, healthcare
18 supplies or PPE. The increased use of it has helped
19 to reduce our state's reliance on foreign energy.

20 But with specific regard to these
21 permits, a few notes. Wetland impacts are being
22 replaced in the majority of acres at a greater than
23 one to one ratio, which means a net in terms of an
24 increase in wetlands functions -

25 MS. CONNOLLY: One minute.

1 MR. SUNDAY: - per location and rights
2 of way are being active. And the company is
3 committed to water quality monitoring for nearby
4 households. As the permit documents note that
5 PennEast is committed to a significant conservation
6 measures including monitoring and medication for
7 several protected species. There's been a number of
8 construction practice modifications to minimize
9 impacts, significant restoration -

10 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

11 MR. SUNDAY: - and much more in terms
12 of monitoring water supplies or protection from
13 minimal impacts as they occur.

14 We encourage you without delay to
15 approve these permits and let this project move
16 forward. Thank you.

17 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, sir.

18 I have to apologize to Robert Kaiser.
19 I accidentally skipped over you. That was my fault.

20 Mr. Kaiser, if you're on the line, you
21 can offer your testimony, please.

22 MR. KAISER: We didn't take that
23 personally.

24 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you.

25 MR. KAISER: My name is Robert - my

1 name is Robert Kaiser. The last name spelling is
2 K-A-I-S-E-R. I am a resident of Plains Township in
3 Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. I am directly
4 impacted as the proposed pipeline will be traversing
5 through or bisecting my property through my
6 backyard.

7 I'd like to start with some of the
8 pre-read comments from all those supporting the
9 pipeline. And I ask who will check the facts? I
10 heard that there are pipeline constraints. But if
11 we check the facts, there are no pipeline
12 constraints in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Check me
13 on that, please.

14 These comments are coming from energy
15 providers and PennEast alone, Marcellus Shale, sure
16 they all want their gas to be sold. But there was a
17 comment about colocation, a lot of colocation of the
18 pipeline. If we check the facts, that is not a
19 fact. This is a greenfield pipeline. And as far as
20 I know, there is no colocation, meaning that they're
21 putting a pipeline located with another pipeline or
22 another right of way. And the only thing I know
23 about was the Appalachian Trail where they
24 collocated that part of the pipeline with a power
25 line running through, because they needed Congress

1 to approve that to put a new path through the
2 Appalachian - or across the Appalachian Trail.

3 And the last commenter - second to
4 last commenter said that we're importing gas. And
5 that is the biggest fallacy known to - known to
6 everyone today because the United States is now the
7 leading exporter of natural gas.

8 MS. CONNOLLY: One minute, sir.

9 MR. KAISER: This all boils down to
10 where is the excess gas going? Everybody has to
11 have gas. There are no constraints. UGI now has a
12 storage facility in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Well,
13 there's really no shortage of gas anywhere in this
14 region. And the excess gas will eventually make its
15 way to export where the big dollars are to be found.

16 There's no public purpose and need for
17 this. Exports are not a public purpose.

18 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

19 MR. KAISER: A 20 percent partner, New
20 Jersey Resources, one fifth partner of PennEast
21 Pipeline pulled their financial support behind this
22 pipeline. This is a new pipeline project you're
23 looking at, Phase 1. How can there be a Phase 1
24 without a Phase 2? They're blocked legally.
25 Waiting for a Supreme Court decision to take land in

1 New Jersey from state controlled or state owned
2 properties.

3 MS. CONNOLLY: Your time is up, sir.

4 MR. KAISER: Okay. Thank you.

5 MS. CONNOLLY: If you want to finish,
6 sir, you can.

7 MR. KAISER: I think we need to wait
8 for the Supreme Court to make its decision whether
9 they can legally proceed. And whether FERC approves
10 the Phase 1 portion of this. It was supposed to be
11 approved three months ago, decided or not decided.
12 So there's a lot of legal challenges that PennEast
13 faces. And I think we're wasting our time and money
14 looking at permits that may never come to fruition.

15 I thank you for allowing me a little
16 bit more time.

17 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, sir.

18 Okay. Next on the list, let's get
19 back to number six, is Carol Etheridge.

20 MS. ETHERIDGE: Can you hear me?

21 Hello. Can everybody hear me?

22 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, we can hear you.

23 Go ahead.

24 MS. ETHERIDGE: Wonderful. Thank you
25 so much.

1 My name is Carol Etheridge, Lehighton,
2 Carbon County, Pennsylvania. Thank you for the
3 opportunity to speak today. I am testifying as a
4 private citizen and a Pennsylvania resident and an
5 active voter who passionately opposes the proposed
6 PennEast Pipeline Project Phase I.

7 My husband and I moved to Pennsylvania
8 a little over seven years ago. Before the
9 restrictions put in place due to COVID-19, we
10 travelled throughout northeastern Pennsylvania to
11 camp, fish, and kayak in the rivers and lakes. We
12 spent many days enjoying the Lehigh River, which is
13 now recovering as a viable fishery after years of
14 neglect.

15 The PennEast Pipeline will negatively
16 impact the Pennsylvania ecosystem and environment.
17 Their website's pipeline route shows where new
18 construction is required to cross the Lehigh River
19 and introduce risk to the water quality. My
20 concerns are valid given the negative impacts
21 already recorded during initial soil testing by the
22 PennEast Pipeline Project in Kingwood Township. The
23 gross effects of soil testing are quantified and
24 documented under the Federal Energy Regulatory
25 Commission docket number PF15-1-1000. If the

1 PennEast Pipeline Project is damaging property
2 during initial soil testing, it stands to reason
3 that the damage will continue if the project is
4 allowed to move forward.

5 Given the proposed Phase 1 pipeline's
6 68 mile length in Pennsylvania, which spans Luzerne,
7 Carbon, Monroe, and Northampton Counties, the damage
8 scope would be catastrophic for our environment.

9 The argument in favor of the PennEast
10 Pipeline has focused on the economic benefit.
11 However, legacy sources of energy that affect high
12 human health and environmental tolls for extraction,
13 production, and distribution are not useful in
14 creating revenue streams.

15 For example, the opportunity to
16 improve Pennsylvania's economy is in the Regional
17 Greenhouse Gas Initiative or RGGI. RGGI is a
18 cooperative program across the northeastern and
19 mid-Atlantic states and is already in place in
20 multiple states.

21 MS. CONNOLLY: One minute.

22 MS. ETHERIDGE: The economic benefit
23 of those participating in RGGI is tangible and
24 documented by the analysis group in an independent
25 report issued on April 2018.

1 I ask the Delaware River Basin
2 Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory
3 Commission, the Pennsylvania Department of
4 Environmental Protection, the U.S. Army Corps of
5 Engineers, and our elected officials to stop the
6 PennEast Pipeline Project. It makes no sense to
7 continue with this project. It has changed
8 direction multiple times.

9 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

10 MS. ETHERIDGE: This situation is
11 costing taxpayers like me time and money. Please
12 close the application file, stop wasting time on a
13 project that no longer meets our community,
14 economic, or environmental needs. Thank you.

15 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, ma'am.

16 Okay.

17 Mr. Jack Byerly.

18 MR. BYERLY: Hi. Can you hear me?

19 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can, sir. Go
20 ahead.

21 MR. BYERLY: Great. Thank you.

22 Good evening. My name is Jack Byerly.
23 And I'm the outreach coordinator with Clean Air
24 Council. The Council is a member-supported non-
25 profit environmental organization that has been

1 working to protect everyone's right to clean air,
2 pure water, and a healthy environment for over 50
3 years.

4 The Council believes that it's
5 absolutely necessary for DEP to deny PennEast's
6 Chapter 102 and 105 permit applications at this
7 time. The construction of PennEast Phase 1 could
8 severely damage some of Pennsylvania's most pristine
9 streams and wetlands, as well as some of the
10 region's most beloved recreation destinations.

11 Despite multiple submissions, PennEast
12 application materials remain inaccurate and
13 incomplete and fail to adequately address the
14 impacts on waterways, wetlands, and drinking water
15 sources that have been raised in great detail in
16 previously submitted public comments in efficiency
17 letters.

18 Phase 1's development could cause
19 destruction similar to what occurred with the
20 construction of Sunoco's Mariner East Two Pipelines.
21 Mariner Two has caused over 300 spills so far,
22 severely damaging waterways, wetlands, and drinking
23 water sources throughout its path.

24 Under Chapter 105 regulations, DEP is
25 required to evaluate whether the public benefits of

1 this project outweigh the environmental harm that it
2 could cause, since it's unlikely that PennEast Phase
3 2 will ever be built due to the legal barriers the
4 project faces in New Jersey. DEP needs to review
5 Phase 1 as a standalone project and weigh the public
6 benefit against its environmental impacts.

7 PennEast has been unable to show
8 that there is enough market demand to support Phase
9 1 as a standalone project, demonstrated by the fact
10 that it has only obtained purchasing commitments for
11 half the natural gas capacity of Phase 1.
12 Additionally, the energy forecasting on the economic
13 parlance PennEast presented six years ago is no
14 longer relevant given the drop in natural gas prices
15 and the surge of oil and gas company bankruptcies
16 this past year. New Jersey Resources, a partner of
17 PennEast, removed PennEast from its financial growth
18 projections through 2024, for even further doubts
19 about the project's economic viability.

20 Therefore the development could cause
21 irreparable damage to northeast Pennsylvania's
22 environmental resources and negatively impact
23 ecotourism, which is critical to the economy of the
24 Poconos region. It's clear that DEP should deny
25 this permit since PennEast has failed to demonstrate

1 as a public benefit that Phase 1 of this ongoing
2 project even comes close to outweighing its
3 environmental impact.

4 MS. CONNOLLY: One minute.

5 MR. BYERLY: Pennsylvania cannot
6 afford to have its natural lands and watersheds
7 severely damaged for a failed and unnecessary
8 pipeline project. If DEP is inclined to continue to
9 do so, DEP must require PennEast to submit new
10 application material demonstrating the public
11 benefits of Phase 1 of this standalone project so
12 that DEP can accurately weigh Phase 1 public benefit
13 against its environmental impacts. DEP must also
14 require PennEast to fully address the numerous
15 remaining deficiencies from its previous permit
16 application submissions.

17 Finally, the Council urges DEP to hold
18 additional in-person public hearings in each
19 county -

20 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

21 MR. BYERLY: - that the Phase 1
22 project would cross. These hearings should be
23 preceded by informational public meetings where the
24 public can learn about the project and ask questions
25 of DEP and the applicant. Holding public hearings

1 locally would allow those who are most impacted by
2 the pipeline and those who cannot regularly use the
3 Internet and those without reliable Internet access
4 to meaningfully (sic) participate in the permitting
5 process.

6 These in-person public hearings
7 meetings should take place once public health
8 officials have determined that it's safe to meet and
9 follow necessary safety guidelines. The extent of
10 the impacts of this project and the intense public
11 interest call for additional accessible public input
12 opportunities.

13 Thank you for your consideration to
14 these comments.

15 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, sir.

16 Next up is Linda Christman. Linda, if
17 you're on the line, if you can unmute your mic.

18 Linda, I can hear you. Is that you on
19 the line?

20 MS. CHRISTMAN: Am I muted?

21 MS. CONNOLLY: There you go. Linda,
22 we can hear you. You can begin now.

23 MS. CHRISTMAN: Okay.

24 My name is Linda Christman. I'm
25 President of Save Carbon County, a non-profit group.

1 I'm speaking for that group. I'm located in
2 Lehighton, Pennsylvania.

3 A valued principal of all
4 environmental regulation is to weigh the benefits of
5 the project against the environmental harms
6 proposed. A project proponent should be prepared to
7 avoid harms where possible, or if avoidance is not
8 possible, remediate the environmental harms, or as a
9 last resort, mitigate environmental damage by
10 replacement.

11 PennEast's project fails on all
12 counts.

13 Does the project offer substantial
14 public benefit? No. A case for public benefit was
15 made for the original project. That project was to
16 bring energy security to New Jersey's natural gas
17 customers.

18 That argument and purpose cannot be
19 used for the Phase 1 project. It does not even
20 enter New Jersey. The pipeline ends in Bethlehem.
21 That Pennsylvania already has energy security. We
22 are a gas exporter.

23 Does the project avoid harm where
24 possible? No. In its short 68 miles, this pipeline
25 cuts through 96 waterbodies and 130 wetlands.

1 Surely some of these could have been avoided
2 entirely, but the project owners always choose the
3 cheapest route and the cheapest methods. Only two
4 of the wetlands and waterways will be crossed using
5 HDD. Most will be crossed using the most damaging
6 open cut method. The company still proposes a 36
7 inch pipeline, even though less than 50 percent of
8 the capacity is subscribed.

9 Does the project offer genuine
10 remediation? No. PennEast proposes plans to
11 restore pre-construction conditions, but only
12 plannings to monitor these plannings for five years.

13 It will take decades for pre-construction
14 conditions to be restored. But once again, PennEast
15 opts for the cheapest method.

16 Your department must require
17 meaningful remediation with a real chance of
18 success.

19 MS. CONNOLLY: One minute.

20 MS. CHRISTMAN: Does the project
21 propose adequate mitigation? The pipeline will
22 result in a total impact area of 17.3 acres and a
23 wetland loss of 5.49 acres. But the two mitigation
24 sites fall short in both wetland enhancement and
25 replacement. In addition, the mitigation sites are

1 in counties not even remotely affected by the
2 pipeline. Those cannot count as adequate
3 mitigation.

4 And lastly, please, Pennsylvania DEP
5 should prohibit any tree felling until all permits
6 are obtained. PennEast has stated they plan to cut
7 trees in March of 2021.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to
9 comment.

10 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, ma'am.

11 The next person on the list is Maya
12 Van Rossum.

13 MS. VAN ROSSUM: Hi. I'm Maya Van
14 Rossum. I'm the Delaware Riverkeeper speaking on
15 behalf of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

16 The PA DEP needs to rescind the 401
17 certification given so quickly to the PennEast
18 Pipeline proposal in 2017. That decision was based
19 on paltry and misleading information and granted
20 without the benefit of full and fair DEP regulatory
21 review.

22 Not only was that decision unsettled
23 at the time, but new evidence on the record has only
24 served to strengthen the truth that 401
25 certification cannot and should not be maintained

1 because it is not supported by the facts, science,
2 and law.

3 In addition, the PennEast Pipeline has
4 been significantly changed so many times, that it is
5 no longer the project that was originally
6 certificated. Rescission is the only defensible
7 next step.

8 With regards to the 102 and 105
9 permitting, Delaware Riverkeeper Network will be
10 providing written comment. But it is clear that
11 these approvals must be denied based on the science,
12 the facts and laws from the record already before
13 you.

14 Before I go to the substance, I want
15 to challenge this entire hearing process as being
16 deliberately organized so as to undermine opposition
17 to the pipeline. We are in a pandemic that has
18 everyone stretched thin in terms of time and
19 emotion. And we have just come through the biggest
20 holiday season of the year. And the only time that
21 people of our nation and region and Pennsylvania
22 have had to try to get a bit of time to recover from
23 the myriad of traumas they have been experiencing
24 during this difficult year.

25 And yet you expected them to spend

1 their holidays preparing for this hearing. That
2 does not just show a callous disregard for the
3 people of Pennsylvania and the historic moment we
4 are in, but exposes a deliberate intent to try to
5 minimize the level of robustness of the comments
6 that would be provided during this hearing and
7 comment period.

8 While you were expecting people to
9 review reams of the false information provided by
10 PennEast to prepare a fresh set of comments, you
11 were limiting people to just three minutes.

12 MS. CONNOLLY: You have one minute,
13 ma'am. One minute.

14 MS. VAN ROSSUM: You have pre-
15 announced that you will be cutting testimony off
16 after just a few short hours, whether or not
17 everyone has been heard. You don't even allow
18 people the opportunity to be uninterrupted in their
19 testimony. To top it off, you don't even include
20 video as an option in order to create any sense of
21 community or accountability so that we can see that
22 DEP officials are actually listening to what we're
23 saying, rather than cleaning their kitchens.

24 And I think it is notable that the
25 first four testifiers -

1 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

2 MS. VAN ROSSUM: - testifiers, they
3 had - did they have inequitable access to this
4 hearing? And you overlooked the first opposing
5 testifier. Troubling? Intentional?

6 This is a project that will destroy
7 people's lives, inflict irreversible harm on all
8 aspects of our environment, put the health and
9 safety of people at serious risk, take property
10 rights and depress property values, and sacrifice
11 future generations to an irreversible climate
12 crisis, to so severely limit public comment is
13 unconscionable.

14 MS. CONNOLLY: Your time is up, ma'am.
15 Thank you.

16 Next up on the list is Sharon Furlong.

17 MS. FURLONG: Can you hear me?

18 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can, Sharon.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. FURLONG: Sharon Furlong, Bucks
21 Environmental Action Spokesperson Bucks County.
22 Although this permit application affects mainly the
23 north, decisions need to be based on the whole
24 project, and that's what I'm going to talk about.

25 It's not easy to keep a river clean.

1 It's a whole lot harder if pipelines cross it and
2 its tributaries. And that's exactly what this
3 not-needed overhyped pipeline does approximately 255
4 times over its 118 mile course. There is a constant
5 danger to the Delaware River through feeder streams
6 during construction and afterwards. A monumental
7 threat would occur if anything involved with this
8 pipeline fails or explodes.

9 There is no industry on earth that
10 does not suffer from mistakes, accidents, and
11 problems. This industry is far from being the only
12 exception, no matter what it claims. From 1986 to
13 2013, there have been approximately 8,000 pipeline-
14 related incidents, nearly 300 a year on average,
15 resulting in more than 500 deaths, 2,300 injuries,
16 and \$7 billion in damage.

17 And there's more. 2013 alone, up to
18 2013, there were 1,400 pipeline spills and
19 accidents, four out of every five being discovered
20 by local residents not the company. So yes, there
21 is a constant threat of a failure with its threat to
22 waterways. Revenue from a clean river, however,
23 allows recreation-related businesses and its water,
24 and adjoining forests and parks, hunting, fishing,
25 and viewing was over \$22 billion. 600,000 jobs in a

1 clean river were generated up to 2010. And \$10
2 million in wages were paid in Pennsylvania alone.
3 And jobs, in the entire watershed, over 3.5 million
4 jobs were created with wages of over \$172 billion.
5 And this pipeline, PennEast itself stated it will
6 create 12,160 construction jobs that will disappear,
7 leaving only 98 jobs. Ninety-eight (98) jobs.

8 Yet according to the Goodman Group
9 study in November of 2015, even this figure is not
10 to be trusted, because, quote, PennEast, quote,
11 overstated and did not provide, quote, adequate
12 documentation to support. So the -.

13 MS. CONNOLLY: One minute.

14 MS. FURLONG: The Goodman study is not
15 the only time PennEast has been challenged for the
16 information it was or wasn't providing. Throughout
17 its history of trying to get a pipeline built, it
18 has changed its information and data, left out
19 important information to contortionist tricks to
20 manipulate permit applications, ignore agencies,
21 including your own.

22 I say nay. It is time to stop
23 pandering to destructive and toxic industries. It
24 is time to put people and our planet before
25 industry, shareholders, businesses, and before the

1 politicians who take money from them and then
2 blindly forget their -

3 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

4 MS. FURLONG: - constituents, along
5 with Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania
6 Constitution. It is beyond time. I hate being
7 interrupted. Thank you.

8 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you.

9 Next person on the list is Kelsey
10 Krepps.

11 MS. KREPPS: Hi. Can you hear me?

12 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can. Go ahead.

13 MS. KREPPS: Okay. Great. Thank you
14 so much.

15 My name is Kelsey Krepps. I'm the
16 senior campaign representative with the Beyond Dirty
17 Fuels Campaign with the Sierra Club. We have over
18 3.8 million members in support to defend everyone's
19 right to a healthy world. We will be submitting a
20 comment letter later on.

21 The first thing I want to mention here
22 is that PennEast's most recent Chapter 102 and 105
23 permit application materials still does not
24 adequately address outstanding problems that the
25 Department has identified from previous applications

1 and deficiency letters.

2 We are asking that the DEP deny the
3 application for the PennEast Phase 1 project due to
4 the irreparable harm it will cause to the state's
5 waterways and environment during construction and
6 throughout its lifespan and beyond. This project
7 has harmful environmental impact, safety issues, air
8 and climate change impacts, economic ramifications,
9 permanent impact on scenery and rural character of
10 the region, including beloved state parks and
11 forests and would threaten drinking water sources,
12 groundwater wells, wetlands, springs, water quality,
13 and septic systems. Aquatic resources have the
14 potential to be impacted by the many activities of
15 this drilling process, including waterbody crafting,
16 clearing of trees, blasting, and water withdrawal.

17 Some of the resources within the
18 project are high quality in sensitive resources
19 including exceptional value and trout streams. And
20 trout and ecotourism is incredibly important for the
21 ecotourism of the area.

22 Presenting this phase of this pipeline
23 is a very last ditch effort to continue backing a
24 project that just lacks justifiable need. The
25 proposed Phase 1 project has a different end point

1 and a different customer from the previously
2 proposed PennEast Pipeline Project. So it should
3 not be treated as the same pipeline.

4 New Jersey Resources, as other folks
5 have mentioned, have removed PennEast from its
6 financial growth projections through 2024 and so has
7 UGI Corporation.

8 This is half of the partner group
9 backing this project. The State of New Jersey is
10 currently fighting the project through legal and
11 regulatory challenges. That's upholding or
12 preventing Phase 1 from even being considered on the
13 table at the moment. This is extremely last ditch.

14 PennEast's economic and energy
15 forecasting arguments presented six years ago to
16 justify this project are outdated.

17 Lastly, PennEast is a huge
18 Pennsylvania public lands concern.

19 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds).

20 MS. KNEPPS: Northeastern
21 Pennsylvania's forests and some of the state's most
22 visited parks and recreation areas, including the
23 Lehigh River, Hickory Run, Beltzville State Park as
24 well as state forests are all impacted, as well as
25 other drinking water sources of residents of the

1 area.

2 And so all points are secured. I
3 would like to echo also a comment from before that
4 tree felling should not be taking place, given the
5 likelihood of this project is a spectacle and we
6 have seen that with the pre-emptive - we have seen
7 tree felling before, before pipelines are even
8 permitted the entire length of the route.

9 Thank you so much for your times.

10 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you very much.

11 Next up on the list is Diana Dakey.

12 And I just want to remind people, I'm
13 going to switch to give you a 30 second cue, since
14 you can see the timer. That works out easier.

15 Diana Dakey.

16 MS. DAKEY: Can you hear me?

17 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can. Go ahead.

18 MS. DAKEY: Thanks.

19 My name is Diana Dakey. I live in
20 Dalton, Pennsylvania, Lackawanna County. I am
21 commenting as an individual.

22 PennEast is an unneeded and damaging
23 pipeline project. As a regular hiker in state
24 parks, it pains me that Pennsylvania could possibly
25 approve damage to our parks, green spaces,

1 neighborhoods, waterways, and climates, to allow gas
2 profiteering speculators to build an unnecessary
3 pipeline project that is fully out of line with
4 conservation and climate goals in the 21st century.

5 Pristine waterways, as well as
6 important conservation areas and recreation
7 destinations, including Hickory Run State Park,
8 could be permanently damaged. Since this project
9 was first proposed six years ago, the Pennsylvania
10 DEP has received all the evidence it needs to deny
11 the Chapter 102 permit for erosion and sediment
12 control, the Chapter 105 permit for water
13 obstruction and encroachment, and to revoke the
14 Clean Water Act 401 certification that it
15 prematurely issued.

16 PennEast has not demonstrated any
17 downstream demand for the gas in Pennsylvania. New
18 Jersey has denied permits for construction in that
19 state. So this newly proposed Pennsylvania-only
20 Phase 1 is preposterous. Why is Pennsylvania DEP
21 looking at Phase 1 and asking the public to comment
22 on some hazy business plan? What is Phase 2? Is
23 there a Phase 3, phase X? Let's get it out in the
24 open. Or let's admit that we don't need to because
25 this is a purely speculative adventure by a pipeline

1 company hoping to line up some maybe needed -
2 hopefully needed permits. Absurd. And an abuse of
3 regulatory agency resources.

4 DEP needs to stop being a proponent
5 and handmaiden of the gas industry, stop the
6 nonsense. It is unconscionable that DEP would
7 consider a project that will damage our environment
8 for the purely speculative objectives of the
9 pipeline investors.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, ma'am.

12 Next up on the list is Lucy Freck.

13 MS. FRECK: Good evening. Can you
14 hear me?

15 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can.

16 MS. FRECK: Great. Thank you.

17 My name is Lucy Freck. And I am a
18 resident of Towamensing Township, Carbon County,
19 Pennsylvania. I live very close to where it's going
20 to cross from the Bethlehem Water Authority into
21 Beltzville and then between the Wild Creek and the
22 Pohopoco. PennEast should not be granted any
23 permits until the project has received approval from
24 the Delaware River Basin Commission and should not
25 be granted any permits because of environmental,

1 economic, and aesthetic harm the pipeline would
2 cause.

3 I wish to comment on the risks of HDD
4 in Beltzville State Park. In 2015, the Bethlehem
5 Water Authority stated PennEast Pipeline poses a
6 threat to the 23,000 acre watershed. There are
7 risks with HDD. The risks escalate under the
8 conditions found at Beltzville State Park, such as
9 the soil and rock compositions, ground water, and
10 artesian wells, the need for 2,293,700 gallons of
11 water, et cetera.

12 From the Mott MacDonald HDD design
13 report, I'd like to point out based on data from
14 previous HDDs conducted under ideal conditions, the
15 conclusions by MacDonald is that Beltzville Lake
16 Crossing falls within the zone of limited experience
17 of what has been accomplished to date with HDD.

18 Few HDD installations have been
19 successfully completed at or close to a diameter of
20 the NPS 36 for lengths longer than horizontal
21 installation. Length of approximately 6,148 feet.
22 The pipe needs to be fabricated onsite, with each
23 stop adds more pipe and comes the risk of drilling
24 through its dell, leading to increased friction,
25 which can damage the pipe or the pipe can be stuck

1 in its current location.

2 It will conservatively take 180 shifts
3 to complete this one HDD. There is no contingencies
4 in the timeline for adverse weather or harder
5 drilling conditions. That's six months in an area
6 heavily used by residents and visitors in every
7 season. Six months or more of continual impact upon
8 the area.

9 And if the HDD is not successful, the
10 language is always vague about what would happen
11 even after several attempts. How many scars do we
12 allow to be inflicted on the landscape? How many
13 tries do they get? But never do they say what will
14 happen if the HDD cannot be completed? They will
15 not move the route. I fear they will clear cut and
16 trench this area. It is an area that will suffer
17 multiple environmental impacts, an area highly
18 susceptible to landslides.

19 Their requested permits should be
20 denied. Thank you.

21 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, ma'am. Next
22 up is David Butterworth.

23 MR. BUTTERWORTH: Can you hear me?

24 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can.

25 MR. BUTTERWORTH: Okay.

1 My name is David Butterworth and I am
2 a business agent for Pipeliners Local 798. I
3 represent approximately 7,500 welders, helpers, and
4 journeymen nationwide who build pipelines for a
5 living. My jurisdiction extends from Virginia to
6 Maine. And is made up of 1,035 members who live
7 throughout the northeast. And we have 366 members
8 who reside in Pennsylvania with their families.

9 I am submitting comments in support of
10 Phase 1 of the PennEast Pipeline Project. PennEast
11 first announced its pipeline project in 2014, which
12 is designed to bring approximately 1,000,000 cubic
13 feet a day of natural gas from shale fields in
14 northeastern Pennsylvania to consumers in eastern PA
15 and New Jersey.

16 Taking into account numerous landowner
17 and other stakeholder concerns, PennEast made
18 several route modifications. And after extensive
19 review, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
20 approved the PennEast project in 2018, finding the
21 project is in the public interest and could be
22 constructed with minimal impact to the environment.

23 Since FERC approved the project, legal
24 issues have delayed the New Jersey section of the
25 project. While that process plays out, PennEast has

1 proposed a phased approach to constructing the
2 pipeline where with FERC and PA DEP approvals, most
3 of the Pennsylvania route would be constructed.

4 According to PennEast, just the
5 Pennsylvania portion of the pipeline would have an
6 economic impact of over \$1 billion and create
7 thousands of direct and indirect jobs. Local 798
8 and every other leading union organization supports
9 the project.

10 During construction, PennEast will be
11 built with highly skilled union labor using the most
12 up-to-date safety procedures. The following
13 processes will be adopted. A special coating to
14 prevent corrosion will be placed inside and outside
15 of the high strength steel that forms the pipeline,
16 along with other corrosion prevention measures.
17 PennEast will periodically conduct in-line
18 inspections of the pipeline, which provide an
19 important additional source of information about the
20 condition and integrity of the pipeline.

21 Prior to being placed in service,
22 PennEast will conduct an x-ray of all wells and a
23 hydrostatic pressure test will be conducted at
24 pressures that exceed the maximum allowable
25 operating pressure to ensure all wells can tolerate

1 the designed operating pressures. PennEast's gas
2 control center will continually - continuously
3 monitor gas pressure and flow in the pipeline, which
4 will immediately alert technicians of any anomalies.
5 PennEast will install remotely operated automated
6 valves at locations consistent with the federal code
7 of regulations.

8 PennEast -.

9 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

10 MR. BUTTERWORTH: PennEast will train
11 and coordinate with first response agencies along
12 the project route, starting with communicating
13 construction plans and expanding into training and
14 coordination during ongoing operations.

15 FERC and PA DEP have conducted
16 rigorous review of the PennEast project. Approval
17 of a chapter 102 and 105 permits would provide the
18 regulatory certainty needed to move forward and
19 allow construction of this important pipeline
20 project.

21 For all these reasons above, local 798
22 supports the PennEast project and urges approval of
23 the permit applications as soon as possible. Thank
24 you.

25 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, sir.

1 The next person up is Christine
2 Shelly.

3 MS. SHELLY: Can you hear me?

4 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can. Go ahead,
5 please.

6 MS. SHELLY: Thank you.

7 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you.

8 MS. SHELLY: My name is Christine
9 Shelly. And I live several hundred feet from
10 Adelphia's Quakertown Compressor Station. And my
11 comments are very much opposed to this project.

12 How can a company come in here and
13 just take something that belongs to all the people?
14 Our PA Constitution says that Pennsylvania's public
15 natural resources are the common property of all the
16 people, including generations yet to come. As
17 trustees of these resources, the Commonwealth shall
18 conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all
19 the people.

20 They say that this PennEast pipeline
21 is for the benefit of Pennsylvanians, but it is not.
22 We do not want this project here in PA. New Jersey
23 didn't want this project either. Isn't that why the
24 project has been split into two phases? We couldn't
25 get approval in New Jersey. Let's split this

1 project in two parts and hope that the people in PA
2 are sleeping.

3 We do not want to interconnect between
4 PennEast and Adelphia. And PennEast should have to
5 submit a new application if they change the end
6 point of the original proposal.

7 There are three big imperatives
8 regarding these pipelines. You don't change the
9 product, the pressure, or the direction of flow. It
10 doesn't take a scientist to realize that when you
11 change all three, there will be problems. Not if,
12 but when.

13 Adelphia's pipeline was built in the
14 1970s for oil running in the other direction, and
15 they will be increasing the pressure. While Sunoco
16 was busy paying fines for discharging drilling
17 wastewater in eight Pennsylvania counties, the news
18 stories appeared of the Mariner East sinkholes on
19 Goot Road and our other neighbors in Chester County
20 who are now dealing with this spill into the Marsh
21 Creek.

22 There was the Christmas morning UGI
23 gas line explosion that killed a 30 year old woman
24 in Pocono Township when the blast flipped her car
25 over and killed her.

1 I love the Marsh Creek. I picnic
2 there every summer. And I love the Pocono
3 Mountains. I have spent every summer camping at
4 Hickory Run State Park. And my dad used to drink
5 from the streams when we were on hikes when I was a
6 kid. And Hickory Run is where Phase 1 is proposed
7 to cross.

8 Have you ever been there? Have you
9 ever tasted July and August blueberries or hiked
10 Boulder Field? If you have, you might be on my side
11 of this argument. How can they just forge ahead
12 with these projects during this pandemic?

13 We got a notice dated March 18, 2020.
14 Are you kidding me? Everything shut down on March
15 13th. Many of my neighbors here do not have
16 Internet access and use the public library to use
17 the computers. But they can't go outside because of
18 COVID. We can't leave our houses to go to our jobs.
19 Yet they can push forward to exploit our natural
20 resources and rape our lands?

21 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds).

22 MS. SHELLY: The cost to our health,
23 our homes, and our lifestyle cannot be measured in
24 money. Do we have to wait until we experience a
25 spill like Marsh Creek? Do you know how slow these

1 companies move forward when it's time to clean up
2 their mess, if they clean it up? DEP spokespersons
3 said that in order to reroute the Sunoco pipeline
4 was not just about the nature of the spill, but the
5 fact that they, the company, did not do the things
6 they said they would if there was a spill.

7 Shame on our government if they allow
8 PennEast to destroy the clean lands and air
9 guaranteed to the people by our Commonwealth's
10 Constitution. Thank you.

11 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, ma'am.

12 The next person on the list is Arianna
13 Elinich. If I'm getting that correct.

14 MS. ELINCH: Hi. Can you hear me?

15 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes.

16 MS. ELINCH: Did you skip Abby Foster?

17 MS. CONNOLLY: I'm sorry, yes. You're
18 right. You are correct. Abby Foster is next. I
19 apologize. Abby Foster, please.

20 MS. FOSTER: Thank you both.

21 MS. CONNOLLY: Sorry about that.

22 MS. FOSTER: No problem.

23 My name is Abby Foster. And I
24 actually serve as the President of the Pennsylvania
25 Chemical Industry Council. And I appreciate the

1 opportunity to provide testimony in support of
2 approval of PennEast Pipeline's Chapter 105 and 102
3 permit applications this evening. Chemical
4 manufacturing ranks among Pennsylvania's top
5 manufacturing sectors and supports \$24 billion in
6 economic activities and 80,000 jobs statewide.
7 Increasingly, this industry is tied to the natural
8 gas industry because natural gas is becoming the
9 fuel, power, and seep stock of choice to place in
10 more carbon intensive sources. Natural gas, and
11 specifically the natural gas in Pennsylvania has
12 provided the United States a competitive edge in the
13 global chemical market. Since 2010, there have been
14 more than \$200 billion in new and announced chemical
15 industry capital investments in the U.S. tied
16 directly to shale gas. The PennEast Pipeline will
17 continue those benefit opportunities by delivering
18 natural gas to families and businesses in
19 Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

20 PennEast has spent significant time
21 working with all state, federal, and local
22 stakeholders in the development of this project to
23 prioritize conservation and reduce impact to the
24 environment and local communities. They have worked
25 to parallel or co-locate with existing

1 infrastructure where possible, ensure endangered
2 species, wetlands, and environmentally sensitive
3 areas are protected. And in addition to extensive
4 research, engage local landowners to ensure public
5 and private water supplies are protected, going so
6 far as to offer well monitoring and pre and post
7 construction water quality testing.

8 PennEast has proved an engaging
9 willing partner with the Department. We're signing
10 to request an adjusting construction and restoration
11 plan based on feedback. The Chapter 105 and 102
12 permit applications are complete and demonstrate
13 their commitment to responsible development that
14 balances our need for access to reliable,
15 affordable, and increasingly clean energy sources,
16 while limiting disturbances to the environment and
17 waterways.

18 For Pennsylvania to move forward
19 toward a cleaner energy future, it's critical
20 natural gas infrastructure continues to be built out
21 across the state. In a 2019 report, PJM
22 Interconnection laid out the importance of mutual
23 vision infrastructure and pipeline development and
24 successful incorporation of variable energy sources
25 into the electric grid. While we move forward and

1 are growing and generation is competing in new
2 markets, there's still challenges with adequate and
3 reliable storage technology and limitations
4 conceding the markets with longer term commitment
5 requirements. Natural gas is an ideal partner to
6 ramp up and down quickly and supplement supplies
7 from variable sources. With the most installed
8 natural gas generation capacity in the PJM
9 footprint, Pennsylvania can be the catalyst for the
10 most expedient and sustained element of renewables
11 across the PJM territory. This is only possible if
12 we do not take a protectionist view of our resources
13 and we create access through infrastructure for the
14 greater good within the state and region.

15 Pipelines are a safe and reliable way
16 to deliver natural gas regulated by multiple state
17 and federal entities. Regulators play an important
18 role in safeguarding health and safety of its
19 citizens and the environment by ensuring regulatory
20 standards are met. In this case, PennEast has met
21 and exceeded the requirements laid out by PEDEP and
22 the Pennsylvania code. And I ask that you approve
23 their applications for Chapter 105 and 102 permits
24 within Phase 1 of this project.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you.

2 Now we're up to Arianna Elinich.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. ELINICH: Hi. Good evening. Can
5 you hear me?

6 MS. CONNOLLY: I can.

7 MS. ELINICH: Thank you. I am Arianna
8 Elinich. I'm a resident of Upper Bucks County and
9 intervenor for both the PennEast and the Adelphia
10 Gateway Pipeline Projects. I'm present this evening
11 because I have the capacity to participate
12 virtually. However, please note that while I might
13 be present, I find both the timing and the format of
14 this hearing to be held during a pandemic
15 overwhelmingly disenfranchising to the public input
16 process.

17 With under three minutes left, I
18 imagine I should get straight to it. So I'm here
19 today not because I think you will value my
20 concerns, but to rather inform you that there are
21 growing consensus of citizens who have been
22 disenfranchised by your agency, their concerns
23 disregarded and their environment irrevocably harmed
24 all through no fault of their own. And pipeline
25 projects always seem to target the path of least

1 resistance. Not surprisingly, PennEast now proposes
2 additional modifications to their project, which
3 include an interconnect to the Adelphia Gateway
4 Pipeline in Northampton County. That gas
5 transmitted via PennEast would ultimately make its
6 way downstream through my backyard and my
7 neighboring communities in both Northampton and
8 Bucks Counties.

9 Several years ago, I met with
10 representatives of Adelphia Gateway. And at the
11 time, I was told by the individual representing New
12 Jersey Resources that Adelphia Gateway would not be
13 connecting to the PennEast Pipeline. When I pressed
14 - when I felt that these projects could possibly be
15 connected in the future, having known that NJR held
16 stakes in both projects, it was affirmed - even more
17 firmly that Adelphia had no plans to connect to
18 PennEast.

19 So imagine only a few years later the
20 docket telling the tale, forgive me if I'm skeptical
21 at trusting pipeline companies, the FERC and the PA
22 DEP. For me, transparency is key. And I'm not a
23 fan of disingenuous business tactics, nor the
24 agencies that embolden them.

25 These companies continue to carefully

1 word their talking points in a way that contradicts
2 the public good and the agencies that have been
3 established to review these projects are complicit
4 in this charade.

5 PennEast's Phased project further
6 demonstrates that they are weary of the legal
7 challenges presented by the State of New Jersey.
8 Recent shareholder meetings announcing the
9 devaluation of the PennEast project while upselling
10 the profit potential for Adelphia make it clear that
11 these projects aren't about public need. This is
12 clear cut corporate greed strategically working
13 against the public good.

14 For years, I have made my concerns
15 clear to the PA DEP. And here we are yet again
16 asking that you deny the permits for PennEast. I'm
17 hoping that you can understand why all of my
18 experiences with the PA DEP have left me feeling as
19 if my concerns have fallen on deaf ears from
20 fracking and pipeline infrastructure buildout across
21 Pennsylvania to PennEast to Adelphia Gateway. My
22 comments to your agency time and time again do not
23 seem to matter to those responsible for permit
24 approvals.

25 This is an environmental injustice.

1 And it is unconscionable that the FERC and our state
2 agencies continue to remain complacent and complicit
3 as they continue to permit and approve these for-
4 profit projects that clearly fly in the face of the
5 public good.

6 In closing, this is my official
7 request that the DEP deny the Chapter 102 and 105
8 permits for the PennEast project. Fiscally,
9 PennEast is no longer a viable project and the true
10 costs of the harms that will result from this
11 project clearly outweigh any possible public
12 benefit. Protect the public trust for future
13 generations. Thank you for the opportunity to
14 comment this evening.

15 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you very much.

16 Next testimony comes from Cliff Cole.

17 MR. COLE: Hello. My name is Cliff
18 Cole. I'm from Quakertown, Pennsylvania. Can you
19 hear me?

20 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can.

21 MR. COLE: I very much appreciate
22 being able to speak at this hearing. I too object
23 to the fact that we are - well, I won't get - it's
24 already stated very well by Arianna. But I
25 appreciate all the people who have spoken up in

1 objection to it.

2 My main objection to the PennEast
3 project is because of their Phase 1 plan that
4 attaches it to the Adelphia Gateway Pipeline. And
5 this goes through my neighborhood. And Adelphia
6 wants to build a compressor in Quakertown right next
7 to state game lands and in - right near the
8 Quakertown Swamp and in the pristine Butter Creek
9 Watershed.

10 And it also is right next to my
11 friend's farm - farmlands. And it's a monstrosity
12 that will be polluting our air. And I object to the
13 industry people who talk about how this is such a
14 great clean green project, because this - these
15 compressor stations for the Adelphia project, they
16 need one in Quakertown and they also want to have
17 one down in Marcus Hook, or near Marcus Hook. And
18 these compressor stations pollute the air, plain and
19 simple. They're super polluters.

20 And just to let you know, I actually
21 am in litigation with the DEP right now. We have a
22 suit and we are appealing the DEP's granting of the
23 Clean Air Permit for the Quakertown Compressor.

24 But I also object to the route for the
25 actual PennEast pipeline. I too have major

1 reservations about it going through places like
2 Hickory Run State Park, which is a place that I
3 first went to as a Boy Scout. And as an adult - as
4 a Boy Scout leader, I brought other scouts there.
5 And as a - as a head of the family, I brought my
6 family there to see how beautiful this place is.

7 These pipelines that go through parks
8 like Hickory Run become super spreaders for -.

9 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

10 MR. COLE: Thank you.

11 Become super spreaders for non - for
12 invasive species. The invasive plants go through
13 these - go onto these edge locations and just
14 basically ruin a pristine forest.

15 We are losing our habitat for wildlife
16 very quickly. And we need to stop projects like
17 this.

18 I guess I'm done. Right?

19 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, sir. I
20 appreciate it. Thank you.

21 Next is Joan Farb.

22 MS. FARB: Hello?

23 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes.

24 MS. FARB: Okay.

25 Joan Farb, from Newtown, Bucks County.

1 And thank you for the opportunity to speak.

2 William Penn was one of my childhood
3 heroes. And has remained with me a man of moral
4 integrity with an ambition of stewardship for
5 Pennsylvania. If he was alive today, he would be
6 appalled at the latest assault on Penns Woods, the
7 PennEast Pipeline. The Pipeline's instruction (sic)
8 will cause large areas of forest fragmentation for
9 every section of its 100-foot wide right of way will
10 affect 12 acres of interior forest and damage 72
11 more acres since the adjacent area will be
12 transformed into a forest edge ecology.

13 Michael Snyder, Commissioner of the
14 Vermont Department of Forests and Parks and
15 Recreation, having described forest fragmentation in
16 2014, when he wrote when the Swiss cheese has more
17 holes than cheese, the whole sandwich suffers. A
18 total of 84 forest acres will be impacted for one
19 mile of pipeline, causing loss of biodiversity,
20 increased invasive plants like the Japanese
21 knotweed, reduction of water quality, and increased
22 temperatures.

23 Trees provide shade cover, creating a
24 cooling effect. And the roots prevent soil erosion
25 during rainstorms. And those help maintain water

1 quality and temperature. The warmer waters will
2 also not be conducive to the survival of
3 Pennsylvania trout.

4 Since trees also sequester CO2, the
5 removal of trees due to the pipeline construction
6 runs counter to the strategies of the Pennsylvania
7 Department of Conservation of Natural Resources to
8 mitigate the effects of greenhouse gasses with
9 forest carbon sequestration. That's not only water
10 quality would be affected, but the whole ecosystem.
11 Therefore, the PennEast Pipeline permits, Chapter
12 102 for erosion and sediment control, and Chapter
13 105, for water obstruction and encroachment should
14 be denied.

15 In hearing from the FERC natural gas
16 people and also for - I'd like to add that other
17 growing number of consumers like myself get
18 renewable natural gas at competitive prices for
19 heating and cooking. RNG is a biogas produced at
20 organic waste facilities. In addition, okay - I
21 also get my electric -

22 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

23 MS. FARB: - from solar and wind. And
24 like this is a growing industry in Pennsylvania.
25 And I will be submitting a written comment to show

1 the jobs created and the benefits of renewables.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, ma'am.

4 Next up on the list is Senator Katie
5 Muth.

6 SENATOR MUTH: Hi. How are you? Can
7 you hear me?

8 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can. Thank you.

9 SENATOR MUTH: Thank you. I
10 appreciate it. Thank you for my time.

11 Good evening and thank you. As a
12 member of the State Senate, representing parts of
13 southeastern Pennsylvania, it is my responsibility
14 and duty to uphold my oath of office to protect my
15 constituency and the Commonwealth.

16 While I'm here to advocate for people
17 outside of my district, I'm here with a heart of
18 gold knowing that what my residents have dealt with
19 relative to pipeline permitting and projects. My
20 vote counts for the whole Commonwealth, not just
21 Senate District 44. And I am imploring that the DEP
22 really work to do some tremendous effort here to
23 change the trajectory of how they've lost the
24 public's trust in government relative to protecting
25 environment and public health.

1 It is with deep concern that I submit
2 this testimony against the PennEast Pipeline LLC's
3 proposal and it's Phase 1 Chapter 102 and 105
4 permits.

5 Considering the sustained and ongoing
6 resistance from communities and local governments,
7 as well as stakeholders and policymakers, PennEast
8 is an unnecessary project. We already have over
9 70,000 miles of pipeline in Pennsylvania, all of
10 which is lacking significant oversight and
11 regulation to truly make it remotely safe, let alone
12 at all.

13 Approving additional permits places
14 our Commonwealth one step closer to enshrining and a
15 legacy of insurmountable harm for the public health
16 and safety, also to our clean air and our clean
17 water and public lands.

18 Pennsylvania has still quite a hill to
19 climb relative to overcoming the harm occurring from
20 legacy pollution, including the coal industry. In
21 Northampton County alone, this project's pipeline
22 right of way crosses the forested repairing buffers
23 of 12 water courses. To be clear to the public,
24 this repairing buffer zone are vegetative zones
25 which do just that. They act as a buffer or shield

1 to pollution or pollutants rather, entering our
2 waterways through erosion and runoff. They're also
3 vital habitats to maintain overall environmental
4 health of a wetland or a waterway ecosystem.

5 These permits are unnecessary given
6 the full project may never be completed. PennEast's
7 strategy in Pennsylvania has been to smother
8 municipal and community opposition, condemning and
9 utilizing public land with their right of way
10 agreements, buying off lands and our farmers while
11 directly putting these farmers' very livelihood in
12 possible permanent jeopardy.

13 I ask you to consider not just these
14 two permits, but the entire - entire route of the
15 mainline route from the compressor station in Dallas
16 Township of Luzerne County -

17 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

18 SENATOR MUTH: - into our four
19 Pennsylvania counties.

20 If the DEP allows PennEast to continue
21 to cut through our Commonwealth further, they will
22 cross protected waterways, including the Susquehanna
23 and Delaware Rivers, which is a combined source of
24 drinking water for over 15 million people.

25 I will say this then in my comments,

1 DEP should have more regulations to protect
2 Pennsylvanians instead of issuing more permits for
3 pipelines.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you.

6 The next speaker is Chris Coop. Mr.
7 Coop, if you're on the line, you can begin speaking
8 if you want to unmute your microphone.

9 MR. JAGIELA: He has called in and
10 unmuted, but I'm not hearing anything from him. We
11 may have to get back to him.

12 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay. We'll do that.
13 All right.

14 We're going to move along now. We'll
15 get back to Mr. Coop.

16 Dan Kunkle.

17 MR. KUNKLE: Hi. You can hear me?

18 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can. Go ahead,
19 sir.

20 MR. KUNKLE: Thank you.

21 I am testifying on behalf of the Board
22 of Directors of the Lehigh Gap Nature Center. And
23 we also are part of the Alliance for Watershed
24 Education in the Delaware River Watershed.

25 There are so many reasons why this

1 pipeline application should be rejected, but I'll
2 just mention a few. As other people have mentioned,
3 many of them. I find it interesting also that every
4 private citizen so far tonight - and I suspect it
5 will continue this way, has - has testified against
6 the pipeline. Only industry's hired hands seem to
7 support it.

8 PennEast has asked to receive approval
9 of both Phase 1 of this proposed wide state
10 pipeline, as New Jersey has not granted approval to
11 build the section of the pipeline in its state.

12 Breaking the pipeline construction
13 into phases makes this a completely different
14 project that you need a new application with
15 completely different densification and demonstration
16 of public need that are required for approval.

17 Aldo Leopold wrote an essay nearly a
18 century ago called the Pig in the Parlor. He stated
19 that there was a time when pigs were found to be
20 very beneficial animals to have around. But we
21 don't want them in our parlors. This pipeline is a
22 pig in the parlor.

23 From the start, it was a thinly
24 disguised attempt to get fracked gas from
25 Pennsylvania to export facilities in New Jersey.

1 There has been no sufficient demonstration of public
2 need.

3 Additionally, there are so many roads,
4 power lines and pipelines in eastern Pennsylvania,
5 if any pipeline were ever considered here, 100
6 percent colocation should be required. Parks and
7 farmland that have already been preserved should not
8 be compromised. Landowners who haven't sold out
9 their land for development because they want to keep
10 it in its natural condition, should not have to bear
11 the burden of hosting this pipeline. It would also
12 endanger many waterways and drinking water sources.

13 The pipeline builders and some of
14 their apologists said earlier tonight that certain
15 parts of the damaged area would be allowed to
16 revegetate naturally. No place can be successfully
17 revegetated with native ecosystems without a great
18 deal of work because of the multitude of invasive
19 species we have.

20 For the past 17 years, Lehigh Gap
21 Nature Center has been at the heart of the
22 remediation of the Palmerton Superfund site. And I
23 can assure you that -

24 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

25 MR. KUNKLE: - that five years is

1 nowhere near long enough for the remediation of the
2 pipeline cut. And certainly allowing any part of
3 the cut to naturally vegetate is completely
4 unacceptable.

5 In short, this Phase 1 application
6 should not even be considered for approval and
7 should definitely be rejected.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, sir.

10 Okay. The next person on our list has
11 chosen to just submit written comments. And we are
12 going to move on to Kelly Finan. Kelly Finan is
13 listed on the list - on the other line. I should
14 say.

15 MS. FINAN: Okay.

16 Can you hear me?

17 MS. CONNOLLY: I can. Thank you.

18 MS. FINAN: All right.

19 So I'm a private citizen. I live in
20 Hop Bottom, Pennsylvania. My name is Kelly Finan.
21 And I live with my 72-year-old father in Hop Bottom,
22 Pennsylvania, north of the proposed PennEast
23 Pipeline. We live within a four mile - we live
24 within a mile of four active natural gas well pads.
25 So far, there have been reported spills on three of

1 the four pads. So needless to say, I'm not
2 confident in the natural gas industry's ability to
3 contain its own pollution.

4 Living in the think of fracking
5 country is stressful and we look forward to escaping
6 to our nearby Pennsylvania state parks like Hickory
7 Run, one of many pristine destinations which will be
8 crossed by the PennEast Pipeline.

9 When Sunoco built the Mariner East
10 Pipeline, there were over 300 spills and counting
11 which harm the waterways and drinking water
12 supplies. I see no reason to believe that the
13 PennEast Pipeline will be any less destructive.
14 PennEast's application materials do not adequately
15 address the impact the project would have on
16 streams, wetlands, open spaces, and drinking water
17 supply.

18 I'm concerned that Pennsylvania is
19 trading what would otherwise be tourism revenue for
20 destructive, polluting, and unsustainable natural
21 gas profits. The PennEast will negatively impact
22 tourism and recreation which are critical to the
23 economy of the Poconos region. And once this area
24 is damaged, these other sources of revenue could be
25 destroyed for the foreseeable future. Meanwhile,

1 natural gas is a limited resource that will quickly
2 become exhausted if there is demand in the first
3 place.

4 Finally, the Pennsylvania portion, or
5 Phase 1 of the PennEast Pipeline is unnecessary and
6 may be jumping the gun, to put it casually.

7 Phase 2 of the project faces legal and
8 regulatory challenges in New Jersey. And the
9 proposed Phase 1 of the PennEast pipeline lacks a
10 justifiable need.

11 You may remember the Constitution
12 Pipeline faced a similar situation in 2016 that was
13 a pipeline that was a little bit closer to me up
14 here in Susquehanna County. So anyway, the
15 Constitution Pipeline faced a similar situation in
16 2016 when a federal Judge granted the company
17 permission to clear the path for the interstate
18 pipeline in Pennsylvania when it did not have the
19 required permits in New York State. The forest and
20 land along the 25 mile route in Pennsylvania was
21 cleared, including our property that was taken
22 through eminent domain before the pipelines were -
23 or before the permits were denied in New York State.
24 So New York State denied the permits for that
25 pipeline and the path had already been cleared in

1 Pennsylvania.

2 The pipeline project was abandoned but
3 the damage was already done. I suspect the same
4 thing might happen in this situation.

5 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

6 MS. FINAN: Therefore, DEP should deny
7 PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC's Chapter 102 and
8 Chapter 105 permit applications at this time. Thank
9 you for your time.

10 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you.

11 Next on our list is Gorju Torchev?
12 Mr. Torchev, if you have your mic, you can unmute
13 it, please if you're on the call -.

14 MR. JAGIELA: It doesn't look like
15 he's on the line right now. He was earlier, but
16 he's not now.

17 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

18 We'll try to get back to him. No
19 problem.

20 Okay.

21 We're going to move to next on the
22 list is Gail Mershon.

23 MS. MERSHON: Can you hear me?

24 MS. CONNOLLY: I can. Yes, I can.

25 Go ahead, ma'am.

1 MS. MERSHON: Thank you.

2 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you.

3 MS. MERSHON: I'm calling really on
4 behalf of myself, even though I am connected with
5 many environmental organizations. And I'm here to
6 state that I believe the DEP should deny permit
7 applications for the PennEast Pipeline Company,
8 LLC's Chapter 102 and 105 permit applications.

9 First of all, the State of New Jersey
10 has put up unique challenges to completion of the
11 pipeline in their covering in their territory, which
12 likely they won't be able to overcome those
13 challenges. Therefore, the PA only Phase 1 of this
14 pipeline would be what's left. And that does not
15 demonstrate any kind of justifiable proof.

16 Add to that, the risks inherent to
17 Pennsylvania's natural resources being damaged by
18 construction of this pipeline. Phase 1, PA only,
19 will not contribute to any public benefit. Oil and
20 gas prices have been plummeting. Bankruptcies of
21 oil and gas companies are on the rise. Why would
22 we, in Northeast Pennsylvania, want to risk the
23 destruction of our valuable environmental resources
24 for this project? Phase 1 is planned to cross
25 Hickory Run State Park and Weiser State Forest, in

1 addition to other popular and very valuable tourist
2 and recreation destinations. The Poconos rely on
3 these recreational outings for much-needed income.
4 My son lives in New Jersey and has a recreation home
5 in the Poconos, visited very frequently by all of
6 his family, including my grandchildren and myself.
7 And we value the pristine wilderness up there and
8 would hate to see this - this thing built. Also
9 there were multiple problems with the applications,
10 a process submitted by PennEast, including delivery
11 on goods to timeline, potentially devastating impact
12 on drinking water supplies, streams, and wetlands.

13 Again, at the very least, PennEast
14 should be required to submit new application
15 materials because the old ones are very old. And we
16 need to demonstrate any public benefit that could
17 possibly be achieved for the PennEast to become a
18 standalone project.

19 There are numerous remaining
20 deficiencies from the previous permit application.
21 These must also be addressed. I couldn't list them
22 all.

23 Finally, due to the potentially
24 devastating impact to many counties in PA, I believe
25 that informational public hearings should be

1 conducted in each county that this project would
2 cross. And at the completion of these informational
3 events, again I think the DEP should open up
4 additional public comment opportunities provided for
5 people, both with and without access to Internet.

6 Thank you so much.

7 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, ma'am. The
8 next person up on the list is Ian Mote. Ian Mote.

9 MR. JAGIELA: We do not have Ian on
10 the line.

11 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

12 We'll get back to him.

13 Okay.

14 We're going to move right along now to
15 Francine Cohen.

16 MS. COHEN: Yes. Hello. Can you hear
17 me?

18 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes.

19 MS. COHEN: Okay. Great.

20 I'm testifying to ask the DEP to deny
21 the PennEast Chapter 102 and 105 Permit
22 applications. I'm just an ordinary citizen. I live
23 in Philadelphia. Although I wouldn't directly - I
24 don't think, I'm not sure at this point, be impacted
25 by the pipeline, I have been an environmentalist for

1 years and I feel greatly about the impact that it's
2 going to take on many, many citizens forever. There
3 doesn't appear to be any real public health
4 benefits, nor enough market demands to warrant this
5 project.

6 Consider the number of oil and gas
7 company bankruptcies last year, along with the drop
8 in natural gas prices. Add that to the purchase and
9 commitment only half of the capacity of the pipeline
10 and the fact that those purchases were made for the
11 partners of the company. The company's application
12 was deficient and not adequately addressing the
13 probable devastating environmental impact which were
14 read by people who have spoken against the pipeline
15 in their public comments and letters, citizens whose
16 lives will be negatively impacted forever.

17 You should not discount their
18 voices. There is reasonable fear that because -
19 because of the 300 plus spills caused by Mariner
20 East Pipeline so far, damaging waterways and
21 drinking water, that similar irreparable damage will
22 be thrust upon their communities and the water they
23 need to drink and shower in by the unwanted and
24 unnecessary PennEast pipeline. The DEP should hold
25 the public - hold public hearings so that most

1 impacted and without Internet access have a voice,
2 so that they don't have to endure the hardship of
3 traveling to a public hearing location just to be
4 heard.

5 We citizens need the natural
6 resources, pristine waterways and wetlands the
7 pipeline very well could damage forever. We need it
8 desperately for our mental and physical health.
9 These recreational areas are a godsend to us. Now
10 more than ever, proved during this pandemic, the
11 Poconos economy depends on the tourism dollars these
12 natural treasures provide, such as Hickory Run State
13 Park, where I have precious memories of camping with
14 my family when my kids were little.

15 How can you deny that the public -
16 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

17 MS. COHEN: - doesn't matter nor
18 deserve to bear the brunt of this. We don't need
19 more oil to make companies rich at the expense of
20 the citizens of Pennsylvania, their health, their
21 right to clean air, water, and natural resources
22 that are there for all of us to enjoy, including the
23 DEP. Don't you guys enjoy natural resources? Don't
24 you guys love going to these parks and fishing and
25 the streams?

1 These pipelines, no matter what the
2 industry, people say always leak and they always
3 impact our environment and our health. And they
4 should be the ones that are living next to the
5 pipeline or the compressor stations. Thank you.

6 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, ma'am.

7 MS. COHEN: Thank you.

8 MS. CONNOLLY: Our next speaker is
9 Sarah Collier.

10 MR. JAGIELA: We do not have Sarah or
11 Judith on the line right now.

12 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

13 We will get back to them in the end,
14 see if they come on.

15 All right.

16 We're going to switch down now to
17 speaker number 31, Elizabeth Bolton.

18 MS. BOLTON: Can you hear me?

19 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can.

20 MS. BOLTON: Great. Thank you very
21 much for the opportunity to speak today.

22 Ready?

23 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes.

24 MS. BOLTON: So my name is Elizabeth
25 Bolton. I live in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. I'm

1 speaking as a private citizen, a Pennsylvania
2 resident for the past 29 years.

3 I teach in the environmental studies
4 program at Swarthmore College outside of
5 Philadelphia. I have taken my students out on the
6 rivers of Pennsylvania on trips they have described
7 as transformative. My students come away with a
8 powerful sense of how precious these waters and
9 lands are, both to them personally and to the
10 Commonwealth.

11 Speaking just personally for myself,
12 Hickory Run State Park has been a touchstone for my
13 children on school trips and family trips alike.
14 These lands and waterways are our commonwealth.

15 You have heard from previous speakers
16 tonight this proposal lacks public benefit for
17 Pennsylvania citizens and residents. The pipeline
18 is opposed on the New Jersey side. This Phase 1 may
19 be a pipeline to nowhere. It is an economic gamble
20 with clear public costs and unclear likely private
21 benefit.

22 The supporters of the project tonight
23 have spoken about the benefits of natural gas and
24 lowering carbon emissions. As someone who has
25 attended the United Nations Framework Convention on

1 Climate Change, I can say with great confidence that
2 that goal of lowering carbon emissions would be much
3 better advanced with Pennsylvania's entry into RGGI.

4 The business people we heard tonight
5 spoke speculatively of promised jobs. Those
6 previous critics had noted those promises have not
7 been well supported. Thousands of temporary jobs
8 shrank to less than a hundred longer-term jobs. And
9 even that paltry promise lacks adequate backing.

10 The profits imagined, billions of
11 investment promised, those monies will go to
12 individual actors. The costs will be borne by the
13 commoners of Pennsylvania by our commonwealth.

14 Those who argue that pipelines are a
15 safe and reliable way to delivering natural gas do
16 not seem to live in the same world that I do, a
17 world with hundreds of pipeline spills. I live
18 close to Mariner East II, and it's just a disaster.
19 I've listened to Cliff Cole, Joan Farb, and Dan
20 Kunkle speak to the entry of invasive species along
21 the corridors cut for projects such as the pipeline
22 project. As a part of the Crum Woods stewardship
23 committee at Swarthmore College, I have had more
24 experience at remediation than I ever hoped to have,
25 including on projects approved by the Army Corps of

1 Engineers -

2 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

3 MS. BOLTON: - underscore the fact
4 that we will not be able to fully recreate the
5 ecosystems this project would damage or destroy.

6 The Guardian Newspaper drew attention
7 today to a new report in which scientists attempt to
8 draw attention to the dire condition of the
9 environment on which we rely for our lives, the
10 world's economic forum, the biodiversity losses, one
11 of the top threats to the global economy.

12 I want to applaud, underscore, the
13 words of Senator Katie Muth, which I am grateful to
14 have heard tonight. I ask the State DEP to deny the
15 PennEast Pipeline LLC's Chapter 102 and Chapter 105
16 permit applications, and I beg you to ensure
17 PennEast not be allowed to cut trees as an attempt
18 to short circuit this regulatory process.

19 Thank you so much.

20 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, ma'am.

21 Our next person on the list to speak
22 is Kim Robinson.

23 MR. ROBINSON: Hi. This is Kim
24 Robinson. And I live in New Jersey. I don't
25 believe that the New Jersey portion of this line

1 will ever be constructed. And I have submitted
2 written comments to the DEP on this.

3 I didn't have time to write anything
4 for tonight. I was wondering if I could yield my
5 time to either Fairfax Hutter at number 54 or
6 Loraine Crown at number 57.

7 Is that possible?

8 MS. CONNOLLY: I'm sorry, ma'am. We
9 have to go on the list that they have - the names as
10 they appear on the list. So if you'd like to make
11 some comments, you have two minutes.

12 MS. ROBINSON: Okay.

13 I'll just say that in my personal
14 feelings, that PennEast since the project started on
15 the New Jersey side, I have found them to be bad
16 actors. I found that they do not answer questions,
17 or do not answer them honestly. And I mean I have
18 many comments on the FERC records backing that up.

19 And then personally, I've had two of
20 my uncles separately blown up in gas line
21 explosions. So that is a definite threat. I mean
22 it has happened to me twice.

23 So I am totally against the project
24 and - for all of the environmental destruction that
25 will occur, it's just - I mean we shouldn't even

1 consider it. Thank you.

2 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay, ma'am. Thank
3 you. I appreciate that.

4 The next person on the list will be
5 Tara Zerinski.

6 MR. JAGIELA: Currently we do not have
7 Tara on the line.

8 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

9 Then it's down to the next person,
10 Joseph Bigley. Mr. Bigley, if you're on the line,
11 if you can unmute your microphone, if you'd like to
12 offer testimony.

13 MR. JAGIELA: He was literally on the
14 line just a moment ago, Colleen. Let's try and
15 circle back to him.

16 MS. CONNOLLY: Absolutely. Okay. We
17 can do that. Ned Heindel.

18 MR. HEINDEL: This is Ned Heindel of
19 Williams Township, Northampton County. My wife and
20 I oppose the granting of these permits before the
21 DEP.

22 Three recent articles in public
23 sources focus sharply on the need - of a lack of
24 need of public need for the pipeline. We urge
25 denial of the permits to bring this six-year

1 uneconomical and environmentally destructive
2 proposal to a close. The citizens about PennEast
3 have impact from global, national, and local
4 perspectives.

5 Bloomberg, in the Morning Call, for
6 December 12th, analyzed the global need for common
7 financial risk reports on climate change. So
8 industries could make investment decisions amongst -
9 across many counties. These decisions include
10 shifts away from fossil fuels which will help drive
11 capital to companies that are acting responsibly.

12 In a local concrete example of the
13 impact, a Morning Call report from November 30th on
14 the New Jersey Resource Corporation's 4th quarter
15 report to its investors disclosed the lack of
16 profitability of PennEast. NJR, one of the founding
17 energy partners of PennEast has removed PennEast
18 completely from its financial projections. As
19 Michael Spilling depth analysis concluded, quote,
20 after six long years, NJR has spent nearly a hundred
21 million dollars and gotten zero benefit as a
22 corporation.

23 Further, as a submission to FERC from
24 the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, on December
25 15th, critiques PennEast's refusal to supply

1 substantive data on air emissions and air quality in
2 Huntington County, New Jersey, failing to fulfill
3 New Jersey DEP's regulatory imparities under the
4 NEP, requiring FERC to consider the best available
5 data. Yes, New Jersey and our small part of
6 Pennsylvania are in Phase 2. But the parts of this
7 pipeline are inextricably connected.

8 If gas companies are profitably
9 exporting their product to foreign ports, this
10 proves the product is not needed in the U..S, let
11 alone in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

12 So public deception isn't - is an
13 empty claim which DEP officials should acknowledge.
14 Public benefit is lost when citizens lands are
15 irreparably chopped up, undermined, blasted apart,
16 eroded, its waterways construct - obstructed and
17 destroyed by private corporations.

18 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

19 MR. HEINDEL: It is their
20 responsibility to the global community to industrial
21 investment, for the rule of law, to the provision of
22 accurate data.

23 Official decisions like those
24 impacting control over erosion and sedimentation and
25 encroachment and water obstruction impact people's

1 lives and livelihoods now and into the distant
2 future. You must reject the approval of these
3 permits.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, sir.

6 Number 36 will be a duplicate name, so
7 we're going to move onto number 37, Michael
8 Loncoski.

9 MR. LONCOSKI: Can you hear me?

10 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can.

11 MR. LONCOSKI: Okay.

12 I'm not going to go over all of what I
13 - what I've been listening to. I agree with
14 everybody that's against the pipeline. There's -
15 we've spent years and years and years with letters
16 and meetings to stop this pipeline, but nobody will
17 listen to our concerns. I only have a couple of
18 specific concerns that I will go over that haven't
19 been mentioned.

20 One is I live on East Saylor Avenue in
21 Plains Township. The pipeline goes right behind my
22 house. And safety is a big concern, because I know
23 if you have a - an explosion, it will incinerate me.
24 And also where they're running it up the hill, there
25 is a quarry, a stone quarry and an asphalt plant.

1 Both - the quarry dynamites on a regular basis. And
2 FERC has just looked the other way and said oh,
3 everything is okay, PennEast will take care of you.
4 Well, that's not what's going to happen.

5 The second thing is that there is a
6 stormwater drainage from one of the developments
7 that come through my property and the neighbor's
8 property, which is going to cross the pipeline.
9 There is nothing in their design - and I have
10 mentioned it to them several times, there is nothing
11 in their design that allows or takes care of this
12 problem. If they don't do anything, it's going to
13 wash away that line.

14 Everything else - I've heard what
15 everybody has said are against it. It's not a good
16 thing, it's an unnecessary pipeline. And it
17 shouldn't be built. Thank you.

18 MS. CONNOLLY: All right. Thank you,
19 sir.

20 The next person on the list to testify
21 is Jason Kia.

22 MR. JAGIELA: We do not have Jason on
23 the line.

24 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

25 The next person would be Cameron Cox.

1 MR. COX: Good evening, folks. I'm
2 calling in tonight in support of the PennEast
3 Pipeline Phase 1 project. As a member of the
4 Laborers Local 130, I have directly seen the
5 benefits of the natural gas industry. I've also
6 seen the benefits of natural gas from the eyes of
7 the small business while working for Hunlock Sand
8 and Gravel. These projects have been instrumental
9 in keeping these small companies alive.

10 I was also on the other side of the
11 coin as a family property owner for the lease out
12 project by Williams. My concerns were the same
13 concerns of all the - all the local residents and
14 all of the property owners about safety and
15 environmental nightmares. The project went without
16 a hitch. We've had a pipeline on the property since
17 about 1972. We've never had a problem. Anything
18 we've ever needed to address with Williams, they've
19 always addressed it, and I expect the same from
20 PennEast.

21 These projects, I've witnessed
22 firsthand are huge job creators. And massive
23 measures are taken throughout the construction
24 process to prohibit and limit any and all
25 environmental wrongdoing. From the clearing aspect,

1 when they take the trees down, to the stream
2 crossings, we have inspectors, operators, laborers,
3 welders, you name it. We have them all looking for
4 any potential hazards environmentally or safety-
5 wise.

6 During my time in Nanticoke City
7 Council, I only wish a project like this was
8 proposed in my town. We'd have workers utilizing
9 the restaurants and hotels that are in dire need
10 right now for any customers due to the COVID-19
11 pandemic. The only way out of the COVID-19 pandemic
12 is through building great infrastructure using union
13 labor. These are local people's lives we're talking
14 about here.

15 You'll hear from environmentalists how
16 bad we are. Well, go investigate a local house,
17 bingo, and you'll see an absolute nightmare. And
18 more of a nightmare than a pipeline job.

19 Folks, this is a no-brainer. We need
20 to invest in our infrastructure like pipelines and
21 highways, just like FDR did. Thank you. Have a
22 good evening.

23 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you.

24 The next person on the list is Rob
25 Hewitt. Rob Hewitt, Mr. Hewitt, if you're on the

1 line.

2 MR. JAGIELA: Currently we do not have
3 Rob, Jonathan, or Nate on the line.

4 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

5 We are going to move down the list.
6 We're going to go to Jessica O'Neil. Jessica
7 O'Neil, if you're on the line, please.

8 MS. O'NEIL: Yes, I am on the line. I
9 was planning to testify on behalf of Penn Future.
10 But another member of my organization is going to
11 testify in a little while, so I will defer to her
12 instead.

13 MS. CONNOLLY: All right. Thank you.

14 The next person is Seth Ryan. Seth
15 Ryan, if you're on the line, if you can unmute your
16 microphone, please.

17 MR. JAGIELA: We do not have Seth,
18 Susan, or Don Nealey on the line.

19 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

20 We will go to Don Wright. Mr. Wright,
21 if you're on the line.

22 MR. WRIGHT: Good evening everybody.
23 I am on the line. I believe you should be able to
24 hear me.

25 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, we can, sir. Go

1 ahead.

2 MR. WRIGHT: I am a resident of
3 Bethlehem Township, which is now the end point of
4 Phase 1. While I truly believe this is going to get
5 approved, I personally am against it. But my
6 concern tonight is related to the safety. When the
7 original plan was submitted, Bethlehem Township was
8 to have no facilities. Now PennEast is proposing an
9 interconnect facility which they bought a tract in
10 the middle of a residential area and they want to
11 build it on about two acres in that residential
12 area.

13 And from what I understand from
14 somebody in the real estate business, the seller of
15 the property was told you do not want to live by
16 what we're going to build. So my concerns in the
17 recent, I think they should be denied these permits
18 until we start submitting more information about
19 what they plan to build. It would be that they do
20 have to get in, provide information, tell us about
21 the facility. And if they don't get approval down
22 the line, we're going to have an interconnect in
23 Bethlehem Township which will be the dead end of
24 Phase 1. And those businesses in Philadelphia will
25 never get the gas.

1 So I think they need to provide more
2 information and make sure they let the communities
3 know what truly is going to happen.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, sir.

6 Our next speaker is Katherine
7 Hetherington Confer.

8 MS. CONFER: Colleen, can you hear me?

9 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can.

10 MS. CONFER: Good evening everyone.
11 My name is Katherine Hetherington Confer. And I
12 serve as the Director of Government and Community
13 Relations for the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance.
14 I am pleased to offer our support for the approval
15 of the Phase 1 permit application being sought for
16 the PennEast Pipeline Project. GRCA represents
17 nearly 1,000 member companies and their employees in
18 and around Bucks County. We offer our support for
19 this project because we support Pennsylvania's
20 homegrown diversified energy economy that benefits
21 homes and businesses in our community and beyond.

22 We support the expansion of energy
23 capacity that is done responsibly and in accordance
24 with existing permits. GRCA supports developing
25 Pennsylvania's energy resources because it results

1 in high paying family sustaining jobs while helping
2 to control the cost of energy.

3 We support this project and others as
4 a way to ensure national security through energy
5 independence and to meet the growing demand for
6 energy in an ever digitizing world.

7 According to the U..S Energy
8 Information Administration, not only is Pennsylvania
9 the third largest net supplier of energy to other
10 states, we are also in the top tier in energy
11 production. And we send the most electricity to
12 other states. To put it simply, Pennsylvania keeps
13 the lights on.

14 GRCA supports this project and others
15 like it because Berks County is a hub of essential
16 manufacturing adding 600 jobs in the manufacturing
17 sector in 2020, even in the midst of the pandemic.
18 Berks County is also becoming a warehousing and
19 distribution hub due to the confluence of several
20 major highways that connect to nearly 60 percent of
21 the U.S. population in under three hours. These
22 factors, coupled with a skilled and capable
23 workforce, available space for expansion, and the
24 affordable energy costs make Pennsylvania and Berks
25 County attractive to companies from across the

1 globe. With most wages starting at \$15 an hour and
2 climbing, and a lower cost of living, Berks County
3 continues to be attractive to the next generation.

4 We're actually facing a decline in
5 available housing inventory with the boom of people
6 relocating to our region. And that's a great
7 problem to have. This kind of growth and
8 development needs multiple factors to converge for
9 it to be successful and manageable input costs such
10 as keeping energy low is key.

11 In closing, I appreciate the chance to
12 voice the support for the PennEast Pipeline Project.
13 On behalf of GRCA's members and the business
14 community within Berks County, we continue to
15 support the reasonable expansion of our energy
16 infrastructure in a responsible and environmentally
17 protected manner.

18 Thank you so much.

19 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you. Okay.

20 I just received word that Joseph
21 Bigley is back on the line. He was number 34. So
22 I'm going to ask Jacquie Bonomo to stand by.

23 Mr. Bigley, if you're on the line, if
24 you'd like to begin your testimony.

25 MR. BIGLEY: Yes. Can you hear me

1 properly right now?

2 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can.

3 MR. BIGLEY: Okay.

4 Hello everybody. My name is Joseph
5 Bigley. I'm from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. And I'd
6 like to thank you guys for giving me an opportunity
7 to speak on this virtual public hearing. I am a
8 local 798 journeyman welder. And I have 20 years of
9 experience in the pipeline and piping industry. And
10 I'm also a registered and active voter as well as a
11 proud taxpayer for the State of Pennsylvania. I'm
12 also submitting comments on behalf of support of
13 Phase 1 of the Northeast Pipeline.

14 And I do want to give a little bit of
15 intellect as to myself and other fellow workers who
16 work in the pipeline industry. I know a lot of
17 people say that there wasn't a lot of private people
18 speaking that work in this industry that also live
19 in Pennsylvania. And I did want to share my
20 information.

21 Basically, our organization is about
22 72 years young as far as I'm concerned. And we have
23 a long vested history in the pipeline industry.
24 We're a trade union that got - that covers most of
25 the highest quality of pipeline welders and

1 contractors all across the country. Our pipe liners
2 were made up of people with very high level skill
3 who weld together all various sections of oil and
4 gas pipelines. In addition to nearly 3,400 skilled
5 welders that are a part of our local 798, we also
6 represent more than 650 journeymen who also assist
7 with lining up the pipe and complete the hydrostatic
8 testing of the pipeline and also 4,200 roughly
9 helpers who assist the welders in the weld
10 completion process. These tasks are all critical in
11 the integrity of the pipeline and the safety
12 surrounding the project.

13 As a trade union, all of us workers
14 are required to meet the highest level of all
15 welding training and take great pride in our quality
16 and safety of our work. All of us Local 798 members
17 have worked on projects in most or if not - you
18 know, a good portion of the 49 states and also
19 across the globe. Our success is mostly built in
20 our four key principles that we carry dearly to
21 ourselves. And that is basically quality, safety,
22 environmental and community stewardship and worker
23 protection.

24 Our values mostly consist of the
25 quality, safety, and environmental and community

1 stewardship, which over a 75-year-long history has a
2 reputation of quality and integrity, both for our
3 people in our welding and in our line of work,
4 provide the safety and quality that is inseparable.
5 You cannot have one without the other. Pipeliners,
6 as far as ourselves, provide the highest quality
7 craftsmanship in our industry and in the nation by
8 requiring rigorous training for all of its pipeline
9 welders and journeymen and helpers. Our quality for
10 what we do speaks for ourselves and with our -

11 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

12 MR. BIGLEY: - performing in the
13 highest standards of qualities.

14 As a member of Pennsylvania and a
15 taxpayer and an active voter, we are familiar with
16 this area. My family lives here, we've been born
17 and raised in this area. And we hunt and we do a
18 lot of activities from, you know, hiking,
19 snowboarding, skiing, everything. There's nothing
20 that we want to have on an environmental level
21 that's going to be detrimental to our communities.
22 And that's why we work in this industry, that's why
23 we take pride in our industry and that's why we
24 support the Phase 1 project of the PennEast Pipeline
25 Project.

1 Thank you for an opportunity for
2 speaking.

3 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

4 Thank you, sir.

5 We'll go back now to Jacquie Bonomo.
6 Jacquie, thank you for your patience.

7 MS. BONOMO: Hi. This is Jacquie
8 Bonomo, president of PennFuture, a statewide
9 environmental advocacy organization with an address
10 of record at 610 North 3rd Street in Harrisburg,
11 Pennsylvania.

12 PennFuture has 988 members and
13 advocates in the three counties impacted by the
14 proposed PennEast Pipeline. We're going to be
15 submitting joint technical comments as well. And so
16 for that reason, I'm delivering my comments in my
17 capacity also as a resident of Luzerne County.
18 Luzerne, Carbon and Northampton Counties encompass
19 intact natural assets that provide ecological and
20 recreational values. We've got large plots of
21 unfragmented forests, high quality fisheries, world
22 class whitewater and a multitude of back country
23 hiking and biking trails, including the world class
24 Appalachian Trail. I derive both livelihood and
25 recreational respite from these places as a river

1 guide and angler, a biker, and a hiker. And the
2 line of this PennEast Pipeline will degrade all of
3 these. Hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts
4 that live here and love these places. And more
5 importantly, the natural amenities of the region
6 attract tourism and tourism dollars. The decision
7 to permit the pipeline will immediately diminish the
8 outdoor experience. And in the longer term, will be
9 yet another blow to small businesses and jobs that
10 rely on high quality outdoor tourism.

11 The pipeline, as its been talked about
12 tonight, will impact two of our state's both well-
13 known outdoor lands, the Poconos and the Appalachian
14 Trail. Kidder Township will be situated in the
15 heart of a concentration of high value natural and
16 economic amenities. The head water to the Lehigh
17 River, state game lands, the Hickory Run and Lehigh
18 Gorge State Parks that attract business from nearby
19 states.

20 The pipeline and compressor station
21 will forever degrade - experiences on the western
22 front of the Poconos. In Kidder Township, a
23 compressor station will pollute our air, endanger
24 our spectacular Lehigh River, and create an eyesore
25 in an otherwise beautiful viewshed.

1 The audacity of anyone who thinks it's
2 okay to sell a pipeline within striking distance of
3 the Appalachian Trail is bewildering.

4 I'd like to also call attention to the
5 abhorrent record of pipeline construction in the
6 Commonwealth. This industry has betrayed the public
7 trust, problem after problem, and how construction
8 operates pipelines either located in a neighborhood
9 or a forest. And DEP has not demonstrated that it
10 can protect our environment from this industry.
11 There's too many examples statewide of an industry
12 run amok with DEP unable to exert sufficient control
13 over it. Even through punitive fines like -
14 punitive measures like fines or through permitting
15 processes like this one.

16 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

17 MS. BONOMO: Pipelines exploding in
18 the west, Mariner East fouling waterways and state
19 parks in the east. Is it now time for the northeast
20 to suffer - the northeast to suffer the same fate?
21 Pipelines are changing the face of our state in ways
22 that are as obvious and evident as the market and
23 climate courses that are driving fracking down.
24 PennFuture opposes the pipeline and the fracking
25 industry the pipeline is being built to serve.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you.

3 The next person on our list - will be
4 Jennifer Godosky.

5 MR. JAGIELA: We do not have Jennifer
6 or Thomas on the line.

7 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

8 Move along then. We'll go to Daniel
9 Wolk. Mr. Wolk, if you're on the line, please.

10 MR. WOLK: Hello. Can you hear me?

11 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can.

12 DR. WOLK: Hello. I'm Daniel Wolk,
13 W-O-L-K, I'm a family physician and geriatrician
14 residing in Narberth, Pennsylvania and practicing
15 and treating at the Bryn Mawr Family Medicine
16 residency program.

17 MS. CONNOLLY: Mr. Wolk, I'm sorry.
18 I'm just having trouble understanding you. If you
19 could just speak closer to your microphone, please.

20 DR. WOLK: Okay.

21 MS. CONNOLLY: There you go.

22 DR. WOLK: Good. I am also a
23 volunteer with Physicians for Social Responsibility
24 of Pennsylvania. I am on this call because I think
25 DEP should deny the PennEast Pipeline Company the

1 permit application that they have requested for the
2 following reasons. Pennsylvanians have already
3 suffered irreparable harm in two centuries of fossil
4 fuel exploitation from contamination of all of our
5 screenings by abandoned coal mines to thousands of
6 abandoned oil and gas wells.

7 One reason why I settled in
8 Pennsylvania from Massachusetts 35 years ago was the
9 state's natural beauty, particularly in state parks.
10 I had the privilege of introducing Philadelphia
11 inner city youth to these natural wonders, including
12 Hickory Run State Park. And I taught the children
13 how to kayak in Marsh Creek State Park.

14 Sunoco energy permits construction of
15 the East Mariner Pipeline has resulted in over 300
16 contamination incidents so far, including an August
17 massive contamination of Marsh Creek Lake with
18 bentonite. To this day a ten acre grid of bentonite
19 material remains at the bottom of the lake. The
20 liner usual is down at the reservoir level - levels
21 because of the exposure. And the inhalation
22 according to DCNR.

23 PennEast construction will not only
24 cause irreparable damage to valuable environmental
25 resources, but also negatively impact tourism,

1 recreation, which are critical to the public health
2 of the Poconos region.

3 Our state cannot afford the damage of
4 creeks and waterways in valuable open spaces for a
5 big end pipeline. These sensitive ecosystems are
6 already scarce by the impact of climate change and
7 the invasion of the Emerald ash borer in the -
8 through our forests.

9 If constructed, this pipeline would
10 dramatically change the landscape of the Delaware
11 River Watershed, impact hundreds of landowners, as
12 well as communities along the proposed route, with
13 the perpetual threat of leak and explosion.

14 In the Delaware River Basin Commission
15 needs to come in to test the water supply of the
16 millions of people within their purview and this
17 pipeline would literally undercut that commitment.

18 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

19 MR. WOLK: As key decision makers on
20 this ill-conceived project, I urge you to consider
21 your legacy of promoting and protecting present and
22 future Pennsylvania's right to clean air, pure
23 water, and the preservation of the natural clean,
24 historic and aesthetic values of the environment.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, sir.

2 Okay.

3 I understand we have Jonathan Black
4 who we called before. He's on the line now.

5 Mr. Black, if you want to get ready
6 for your testimony. I'm going to ask Fairfax Hutter
7 to standby.

8 MR. BLACK: Are you there?

9 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I am. Go ahead,
10 sir.

11 MR. BLACK: My name is Jonathan Black.
12 I live right next door to the kickoff site of the
13 PennEast project, Lackawanna County. I'm part of
14 the Pipeliner's Local Union 798 Journeyman Welder of
15 Tulsa, Oklahoma. We specialize in building these
16 pipelines all over the country. The Pennsylvania
17 phase would have a \$1 billion economic impact and
18 create thousands of direct and indirect jobs.
19 Direct jobs would be, of course, building the
20 pipeline. And indirect would be all the hotels, the
21 sub sandwich place, everything else. Me being from
22 that area, I've seen where a lot of the businesses
23 have gone downhill in quite a few decades. We could
24 really use a boost, any kind of economic impact, in
25 our area. And surrounding down into the Reading

1 area. I've worked throughout the whole eastern side
2 of Pennsylvania.

3 We could really use this kind of
4 stimulus right now in our economy. It will benefit
5 Pennsylvania consumers, it could save nearly \$800
6 million in the past (sic) ten years if the PennEast
7 was operational. During the construction of the
8 PennEast, it will be built by highly skilled and
9 union labor using the most up-to-date safety
10 procedures.

11 Like I said, I'm part of the hall,
12 part of the 798. All of these wells are x-rayed
13 wells. These wells are then - they're x-rayed,
14 they're coded, they're hydrotested, which means
15 they're filled - the pipes full of water and
16 hydrotest to twice the amount of psi that would be
17 in the - that would be operating continuously. So
18 they're twice as - they're done periodically
19 inspections, verifying the integrity of the pipe.

20 Even though the New Jersey side hasn't
21 really moved forward with the - with the permits and
22 everything, they don't realize quite yet that they
23 are going to need it. They keep wanting to shut
24 down the nuclear side. They're already having
25 problems trying to get power. They're pulling power

1 from Pennsylvania over to New Jersey through the gas
2 plants - the gas electric plants themselves. So
3 they might as well be able to push the permits
4 through, get them done, build their own gas electric
5 plants, and then move on.

6 The gas will be able to keep the
7 lights on -

8 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

9 MR. BLACK: - they want to move onto
10 the wind and solar, which is great, if they want to
11 move away from the nuclear, but the gas will be able
12 to keep on the lights when the wind isn't blowing
13 and the sun isn't shining.

14 I appreciate everybody for putting
15 their time. Thank you very much.

16 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, sir.

17 Okay. We actually have another person
18 whose name was omitted. We want to get her in.
19 Michelle Dugan. And I promise Fairfax Hunter, you
20 will be next.

21 Michelle Dugan.

22 MS. DUGAN: Thank you. I'm trying to
23 unmute. Can you hear me?

24 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can. Go ahead.
25 Just speak up a little bit louder, please.

1 MS. DUGAN: Can you hear me now?

2 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes.

3 MS. DUGAN: Thank you.

4 I'd like to share tonight a different
5 perspective. I am here as a private citizen and a
6 member of the Commonwealth to oppose the
7 construction of the pipeline. And many speakers
8 before me have made excellent points. What I'd like
9 to share is a different perspective, a moral
10 perspective on this - on the decision-making
11 process.

12 Pope Francis in his encyclical of
13 2015, *Laudato si'*, and this was written for the
14 whole world community, not just for Catholics. And
15 it is a moral call to what he calls integral
16 ecology.

17 He says when we speak of the
18 environment, what we really mean is a relationship
19 existing between nature and the society which lives
20 in it. Nature cannot be regarded as something
21 separate from ourselves, or as the mere setting in
22 which we live. We are part of nature. We are
23 included in it. And that's in constant interaction
24 with it.

25 And then he goes on to say in any

1 discussion about a proposed venture, a number of
2 questions need to be asked in order to discern
3 whether or not it will contribute to genuine
4 integral development. What will it accomplish?
5 Why? Where? When? How? Or Whom? What are the
6 risks, what are the costs? Who will pay these costs
7 and how? And he says in this discernment, some
8 questions must have higher priority. For example,
9 we know that water is a scarce indispensable resource
10 and a fundamental right which conditions the
11 exercise of other human rights. This indisputable
12 fact overrides any other assessment of environmental
13 impact on our region.

14 And then Francis goes on to counsel
15 us, if objective information suggests that serious
16 and irreversible damage may result, a project should
17 be halted or modified even in the actions of
18 indisputable proof. Here the burden of proof is
19 effectively reversed. It's in such cases objected
20 and these indentures will have to be brought forth
21 to demonstrate that this proposed activity will not
22 cause serious harm. So in other words, this
23 pipeline - in the case of the pipeline, we had every
24 reason to accept evidence that damage to our
25 environment could occur. And therefore, I ask the

1 members of the Department of Environmental
2 Protection Agency to reflect on the moral imperative
3 that is yours to protect the people you -

4 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

5 MS. DUGAN: - from the potential
6 damage that this pipeline can likely inflict on our
7 land, water and climate, our livelihood and our
8 lives. You are the Department of Environmental
9 Protection. Protect us.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, ma'am.

12 Okay.

13 Next up, Fairfax Hunter. I thank you
14 for your patience. Mr. Hunter, if you're on the
15 line.

16 Fairfax Hunter, you can begin speaking
17 now.

18 MS. HUNTER: Am I unmuted now?

19 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, you are.

20 MS. HUNTER: Oh, thank you very much.

21 MS. CONNOLLY: My apologies.

22 MS. HUNTER: All right.

23 I've been a landowner of over two
24 miles of class A trout stream down river from
25 PennEast Crossing of the Susquehanna in Luzerne

1 County. I'm very concerned about potential impacts
2 to the rivers, streams, and water quality. I am
3 extremely concerned about the quality of the data
4 provided to PA DEP.

5 In the past, PennEast has knowingly
6 submitted erroneous maps, tables, reports, and other
7 data to intentionally undercalculate impacts. Even
8 after those errors were flagged, PennEast never once
9 corrected them. They are now immortalized in FERC's
10 final environmental impact statement. PennEast's
11 certificate is thus predicated upon incomplete and
12 misleading information. I urge you, PA DEP, to
13 check their calculations religiously.

14 PennEast also claims they're
15 minimizing impacts by collocating 50 percent of the
16 route. But most of the collocation is not actually
17 used in cleared rights of way. PennEast would still
18 be clearing a 100 to 125 foot-wide swath through
19 forested state game lands, state parks, and fragile
20 boreal wetlands. PennEast using maps and tables
21 told FERC there would be zero interior forest
22 impacts wherever they weren't, quote, collocating,
23 even though they were mostly, if not completely,
24 outside of the right of way and removing a hundred
25 plus feet of very important forest buffer.

1 PennEast has given Luzerne County
2 short shrift. Serious structural hazards of the
3 Susquehanna River and Wyoming Valley Crossings have
4 been ignored. PennEast is yet to release a detailed
5 3D imaging of the underground mines and mine pools.

6 The problems with Mariner East just
7 demonstrate the importance of pulling and properly
8 analyzing what's there before you commence
9 construction.

10 The 75 Luzerne streams, of which 22
11 are high quality cold-water fisheries, Bear Creek,
12 Little Shade, and Shade's Creek, are all slated to
13 be open cut crossings. Even the Lehigh River will
14 be open cut. That sediment will inevitably wash
15 down stream, exposed stream bottoms will dry up, and
16 the cut channel will be vulnerable to erosion for
17 years.

18 Fifty-six (56) wetlands in Luzerne, of
19 which 16 are exceptional value, will be
20 unnecessarily impaired. PennEast also plans to draw
21 water from Crystal Lake. Its exceptional value
22 wetlands near Arbutus Peak support the nearly
23 suddenly threatened breeding Golden Warbler. The
24 Pennsylvania rarity -

25 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds

1 MS. HUNTER: - dialupan has been found
2 within the thinning corridor. PennEast - Lupin is
3 extremely harsh because - I'd like to - I'm also
4 concerned about Carbon County and Switzer Creek - I
5 guess I only have 18 seconds left here.

6 MS. CONNOLLY: You can finish, ma'am.
7 You can finish up.

8 MS. HUNTER: Yeah. The project is not
9 worth the cost. We have a national loss of faith in
10 government. By rejecting these permits and revoking
11 approval for the water quality permits, you could
12 restore citizen confidence in regularious (sic)
13 missions to protect residents in your state rather
14 than to cave under the vast corporate pressures.

15 Thank you very much.

16 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, ma'am.

17 Okay. We have one more omission.
18 Stephanie Catarino Wissman and then Mr. Dale Eric,
19 you'll be next.

20 Stephanie.

21 MS. WISSMAN: Thank you. Can you hear
22 me okay?

23 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can. Go ahead.

24 MS. WISSMAN: Great. Thank you.

25 My name is Stephanie Wissman. And I

1 am the executive director of ATI Pennsylvania. ATI
2 PA is a division of the American Petroleum
3 Institute, which represents all segments of
4 America's natural gas and oil industry. It's
5 approximately 600 members produce profits and
6 distribute most of the nation's energy. The
7 industry also supports more than 10 million U.S.
8 jobs and is backed by a growing grassroots movement
9 of millions of Americans.

10 I am here today to testify to the
11 importance of pipeline infrastructure construction
12 and expansion in Pennsylvania. The need to continue
13 to develop and utilize American-produced energy
14 safely, and to offer our support for the issuance of
15 the chapter 102 and 105 permit application for the
16 PennEast pipeline project. Regulatory certainty is
17 needed when applicants meet the regulatory criteria
18 for permit issuance.

19 Pipelines are the safe connection
20 between consumers and America's abundant and
21 reliable cleaner energy. Additional infrastructure
22 is needed so that no matter where people live, they
23 can be better served, expanding the benefit of
24 domestic energy abundance. At ATI, we establish
25 industry standards and disseminate best practices

1 across the industry. For more than a hundred years,
2 we have taken the natural gas and oil industry's
3 collective wisdom on everything from drill bits to
4 environmental protection to embrace proven sound
5 engineering and operating practices and safe
6 interchangeable equipment and materials. We believe
7 safety and the protection of our communities and
8 environment go hand in hand with industry
9 operations.

10 Recognizing that we as an industry
11 must continue to be committed to the good
12 stewardship of our environment, we have set our goal
13 at zero incidents. State and federal regulators who
14 have incorporated our standards into their
15 regulatory structures have recognized our balanced
16 approach. We see the same balanced approach
17 reflected in the PennEast pipeline project.

18 PennEast has responded to agency
19 requests for project design changes and the
20 implementation of best management practices. For
21 example, PennEast Chapter 105 application discussed
22 PennEast's cooperation with the Corps of Engineers
23 and State agencies to reduce impact on federal
24 lands, state parks, state forests, and state game
25 lands by collocating into existing utility rights of

1 way, implementing route and workspace changes to
2 avoid recreational and other sensitive areas,
3 reducing construction right of way width and
4 providing mitigation.

5 PennEast has also committed to
6 conservation measures, monitoring and mitigation for
7 several protected species.

8 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

9 MS. WISSMAN: PennEast has responded
10 to DEP's requests to reduce workspace and have
11 relocated four pits to avoid or reduce wetland
12 impact, and at DEP's recommendation, PennEast has
13 committed to non-stockpile soil or subsoil within
14 wetlands.

15 A strong economy, affordable energy,
16 safe communities, and environmental stewardship are
17 not values that are mutually exclusive of each
18 other. For these reasons, ATI supports this
19 project's approval.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, ma'am.

22 Okay. Now we will get back to Dale
23 Erico. Dale Erico, if you're on the line, please,
24 unmute your microphone if you want to offer
25 testimony.

1 MR. JAGIELA: We do not have Dale or
2 Joanne on the line.

3 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

4 I'll try and get back to them.

5 How about Charles Ogle? Mr. Ogle?

6 MR. OGLE: Hello?

7 MS. CONNOLLY: Hello. You're on, sir.

8 MR. OGLE: Okay. Thank you.

9 My name is Charles Ogle. I'm in
10 Kunkletown, Pennsylvania, Monroe County. I'm the
11 Vice President of the Aquashicola Pohopoco
12 Watershed Conservancy. We are requesting the DEP to
13 reject the PennEast Pipeline's application for a
14 Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 permit. And to deny
15 their riparian buffer waiver request.

16 This pipeline is not and never was
17 wanted or necessary. Temporary jobs for permanent
18 environmental devastation.

19 Loss of trees. Trees are the nesting
20 sites, food sources, and the guardians of our
21 streams and rivers. They bolster the soil and
22 filter precipitation while providing necessary shade
23 for our streams and oxygen for all aerobic life.

24 To cut a 50 to 100 foot wide route
25 through them at a time when Pennsylvania is

1 promoting its keystone ten million tree initiative
2 makes no sense. To destroy beneficial trees while
3 creating disturbed soil that will only be colonized
4 by harmful non-beneficial non-native species is poor
5 stewardship at the least.

6 There is a pipeline seven miles to my
7 east, which means seven miles to my east, there are
8 Russian olive trees, multiflora rose, Japanese
9 stiltgrass, garlic mustard, and more.

10 Our insects do not feed on these
11 invasive non-natives. So song birds have no
12 caterpillars to feed on, along with no trees to nest
13 in.

14 As for our water, Pennsylvania has
15 about 86,000 miles of rivers and streams, of which
16 19,000 miles are listed as impaired. Twenty-two
17 (22) percent, almost a quarter of our waterways are
18 already impaired. That means you can't drink it and
19 fish can't survive in it. The leading cause of
20 impairment is sediment, silt. A riparian buffer
21 waiver is the most egregious request by PennEast.
22 Riparian buffers are the defenders of our waterways
23 and wetlands. They filter out what shouldn't be in
24 our waters. And they cushion extreme rain events.

25 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

1 MR. OGLE: Once again, it makes no
2 sense to degrade riparian buffers while at the same
3 time the DCNR has set a goal of restoring 95,000
4 acres of riparian buffers. And as the Chesapeake
5 Bay restoration enters their Phase 3 with the aim of
6 restoring thousands more acres of riparian buffers.

7 So in closing, our environment should
8 not have to pay for penny's growth. Growth, as
9 Edward Abby tells us is the philosophy of a cancer
10 cell.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, sir.

13 Okay. Next on our list is Bob
14 Steiniger.

15 MR. JAGIELA: We do not have Bob,
16 Victoria, Martha, or Martin on the line.

17 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay. All right.

18 We will move along to Martin Sandrak.
19 Is he on the line? Martin Sandrak?

20 MR. JAGIELA: No, he is not.

21 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

22 How about Nancy Harkins?

23 Nancy Harkins?

24 MR. JAGIELA: She's unmuted, but I'm
25 not hearing anything.

1 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

2 We can get back to her. It looks like
3 she's on. We'll just have to get her to make it to
4 the microphone. I'll move on and we can get back to
5 them.

6 Jeanie Fissinger?

7 MR. JAGIELA: We do not have Jeanie,
8 Rosemary, Marianne, Ron, or Loraine on the line.

9 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

10 That means we will move down to
11 Loraine Crown. Did you say that Loraine was on or
12 was not on the line?

13 MR. JAGIELA: She is not.

14 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

15 Robin Eisman?

16 MS. EISMAN: Can you hear me?

17 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can.

18 MS. EISMAN: Wonderful. Okay.

19 Well, thank you very much. I'm
20 speaking as a private citizen to oppose the PennEast
21 Pipeline. It would cause irreparable harm to state
22 parks, privately owned conservation lands, state
23 game lands, and even the Bethlehem Municipal Water
24 Authority Land, which is meant to protect water
25 that's eventually used for human consumption, plus

1 land owned by private citizens, some of whom spoke
2 tonight. Construction would cause known harms. And
3 as long as the pipeline functions, there's a risk of
4 spills or other accidents.

5 There's also no guarantee that the
6 pipeline will be built in its entirety, meaning that
7 the damage will essentially have been for naught.

8 So along those lines, as others said,
9 please no cutting trees unless and until the project
10 is absolutely unequivocally approved because that
11 would be like knocking down all the houses in a
12 neighborhood while you're still waiting for a
13 building permit and then telling people who lost
14 their homes, oops, sorry.

15 But more importantly, let me address
16 the fallacy that natural gas is a benefit in terms
17 of CO2 release. What this argument leaves out is
18 that natural gas is methane, which is a greenhouse
19 gas with a warming effect many times that of CO2.
20 Specifically methane tracks up to 72 more times more
21 heat in the atmosphere than CO2 does within a 20-
22 year period. And climate scientists have stated
23 that we now have nine or ten years to bring global
24 warming under control to a point where it will not
25 pose an existential threat.

1 So the other part of this fallacious
2 argument is that we can develop natural gas or any
3 fossil fuel because we have time to gradually change
4 our energy economy. That's not true, given this ten
5 year timeline.

6 Just because it - just as our country
7 and the world mobilized to meet the current
8 pandemic, by developing vaccines in record time,
9 overcoming the usual barriers because we recognize
10 the magnitude of the pandemic threat, we need to
11 recognize the magnitude of the threat from climate
12 change and respond with at least as much dedication.

13 This includes we need to stop
14 developing fossil fuels, period, and shift our
15 monetary resources and human resources into
16 renewable energy for -

17 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

18 MS. EISMAN: - including many jobs
19 that are now being created in the solar energy
20 industry. We just need the will to address the
21 challenge.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you.

24 All right.

25 Next up on the list is David Demko.

1 Mr. Demko, are you on the line? I see - I can see
2 your name, but we're getting some feedback.

3 MR. JAGIELA: I'm not hearing any open
4 feedback from him. If you want to try him again in
5 a moment.

6 MS. CONNOLLY: Yeah. We'll move down
7 to Nancy Johnson. Nancy Johnson, if you want to go
8 there.

9 Nancy Johnson, if you're on, if you
10 want to speak.

11 MR. JAGIELA: She is unmuted.

12 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

13 Nancy, if you're ready. I see your
14 name, Ms. Johnson, but we cannot hear you. You are
15 the last person on the list.

16 Can you hear us?

17 Okay.

18 Darek, what I'm going to do is I'm
19 going to mute my microphone and pause the hearing.
20 We're not at nine o'clock yet, so I will pause the
21 hearing to see if any of the speakers that were
22 called on that didn't speak, if we can reach them or
23 if they can work out their technical difficulties.

24 So we're going to pause for about
25 five, ten minutes so you can work on this. Just to

1 let the stenographer know, we're pausing right now.

2 ---

3 (WHEREUPON, A SHORT BREAK WAS TAKEN.)

4 ---

5 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

6 Has anyone else signed on? I'm going
7 to ask that the stenographer and anyone else just
8 standby. I want to give people who signed up to
9 speak time to log on and work out their technical
10 difficulties to make sure they have ample
11 opportunity to speak. The record is still open and
12 it's not nine o'clock yet. We'll standby.

13 MR. JAGIELA: I have tried reaching
14 out to Ms. Johnson. I haven't heard anything back.
15 And as far as the others go, I have not been able to
16 track them down.

17 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay. I'm still going
18 to standby.

19 I will keep the record open until 9:00
20 p.m. That way anyone who has had technical
21 difficulties or jumped off the line and want to jump
22 back on can do so. So we will stay on the line
23 until 9:00 p.m. And Darek will give me a
24 notification that a speaker is back on.

25 So we'll keep the record open until

1 9:00 p.m. All right. And we'll get some
2 confirmation from Brian, the Stenographer, if you
3 heard that. Okay. Thank you, Brian.

4 MR. JAGIELA: Nancy Harkins is here.

5 MS. CONNOLLY: All right.

6 MS. HARKINS: Can you -?

7 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes. Hang on one
8 second. Brian, our stenographer, if you're ready,
9 we do have Nancy Harkins back on the line.

10 Nancy, can you hear me? Nancy, if you
11 are on the line, you can speak now, offer your
12 testimony.

13 MR. JAGIELA: We cannot hear you. Is
14 there a chance you can call in if I provide you with
15 the phone number?

16 MS. CONNOLLY: Nancy, I think I heard
17 you.

18 MS. HARKINS: Hello.

19 MS. CONNOLLY: There you go.

20 MS. HARKINS: Oh, my gosh. Okay.

21 MS. CONNOLLY: All right.

22 We can hear you. When the
23 stenographer is ready, Nancy, go ahead and begin
24 your testimony.

25 MS. HARKINS: Okay.

1 My name is Nancy Harkins. I live in
2 Chester County, Pennsylvania. I'm speaking tonight
3 as a private citizen. And I am speaking tonight to
4 urge you to deny - to deny the chapter 102 and 105
5 permits to the PennEast Pipeline. The project has
6 the potential to damage waterways, recreation areas,
7 and drinking water sources along its route. Others
8 have spoken much more eloquently than I can about
9 that.

10 Given the financial, legal and
11 regulatory challenges PennEast faces, there is a
12 strong likelihood that the pipeline will never be
13 built.

14 Pennsylvania's communities and natural
15 resources are in jeopardy of being permanently
16 damaged for an unnecessary pipeline. Construction,
17 operation, and maintenance of the pipeline will
18 induce more fracking and would adversely impact me,
19 my family, and my community.

20 I live along the notorious Sunoco
21 Mariner East Pipeline and have witnessed firsthand
22 the rampant environmental damage and health
23 consequences. Phase 1 of the pipeline would cut
24 through the northeast Pennsylvania forest and some
25 of the state's most beloved recreation and

1 conservation areas, as well as crossing some of the
2 most pristine streams and wetlands. Allowing
3 pipeline construction and operation in the Delaware
4 River Basin is a huge gamble with the quality of
5 people's drinking water. Not only those of us here
6 today, but those who will follow us.

7 Phase 1 of the pipeline would affect
8 multiple counties in northeastern Pennsylvania and
9 then connect to the Adelpia Pipeline through
10 Northampton, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, and
11 Delaware Counties. I live a quarter of a mile -
12 quarter of a mile from the Adelpia pipeline.

13 We cannot afford to allow the dying
14 oil and gas industry to further exploit our natural
15 resources like the Delaware River Basin while
16 continuing to adversely impact the health and safety
17 of our communities. It's Groundhog Day. We keep
18 doing the same thing over and over again and having
19 the same result.

20 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds,
21 please.

22 MS. HARKINS: DEP - if DEP is
23 unwilling to deny the permits, you need to do a more
24 effective job of public outreach and you need to
25 treat the Phase 1 as an entirely new project.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. CONNOLLY: All right. Thank you.

3 As I indicated before, I'm going to
4 keep the record open until nine o'clock, if we have
5 anyone that jumps on the line and wants to speak
6 that has already pre-registered.

7 Jason Hayes is on the line. Jason
8 Hayes? Darek, if we can get him ready if he wants
9 to speak.

10 MR. HAYES: Can you hear me?

11 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can.

12 MR. HAYES: Oh, great.

13 MS. CONNOLLY: Could you say and spell
14 your name, sir?

15 MR. HAYES: Sure. It's Jason,
16 J-A-S-O-N, Hayes, H-A-Y-E-S.

17 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

18 You're not on the list, but I have you
19 here.

20 All right.

21 Go ahead, sir.

22 MR. HAYES: First I'd like to start by
23 thanking the Pennsylvania Department of
24 Environmental Protection for allowing me this time
25 to speak. I have to start by saying that I'm a

1 lifetime resident of Luzerne County where I've
2 worked on or around natural gas pipelines for the
3 last 15 years. I have worked on every crew on a
4 pipeline from the start of the clearing the trees
5 from the right of way all the way to the end of the
6 project where the final cleanup restores the land
7 back to its original landscape and every crew in
8 between. I am a member and business representative
9 for International Union of Operating Engineers Local
10 542. We are the men and women that operate the
11 heavy equipment on most of these projects in eastern
12 Pennsylvania. These men and women are highly
13 skilled and trained to run these machines safely and
14 proficiently.

15 You can ask any member of Local 542
16 who has worked on a pipeline and I'm sure they'd be
17 happy to tell you about the strict, sometimes over
18 the top safety procedures and environmental
19 protections taken on these pipeline projects. I
20 have personally seen over the years that safety and
21 environmental protections are the number one
22 priority of gas companies and the contractors hired
23 to build these projects.

24 I'd like to emphasize the positive
25 impacts that these projects have on communities

1 during construction as they are sometimes
2 overlooked. Think of the increased revenue that
3 local businesses will see during the construction,
4 the restaurants, hotels, gas stations, grocery
5 stores, auto parts stores, and banks just to name a
6 few, will benefit greatly. These projects will
7 create hundreds of good paying union jobs with
8 family sustaining wages and benefits. And not to
9 mention the clean and affordable natural gas for our
10 homes and businesses.

11 These are some of examples how
12 communities can financially benefit from this
13 pipeline under construction. And after a year like
14 2020, Pennsylvania needs this project. On behalf of
15 local 542 and its members, we fully support the
16 PennEast Pipeline.

17 I ask the Pennsylvania Department of
18 Environmental Protections to grant the PennEast
19 Pipeline its permits so we get Pennsylvanians back
20 to work.

21 That's it. Thank you.

22 MS. CONNOLLY: Thank you, sir.

23 Again, I'm going to mute my microphone
24 and pause the hearing, but we will still leave the
25 record open until nine o'clock for those who

1 registered that haven't been able to testify due to
2 technical difficulties that we're hanging up can
3 still testify.

4 All right.

5 We will go back on the record now.
6 Again, I'll reach out to our stenographer. We have
7 one more person that did register who is on the line
8 but we could not hear. Faith Zerbe.

9 Am I correct?

10 MS. ZERBE: Yes. Thank you, Colleen.
11 Can you hear me?

12 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes, I can. Are we
13 reset? When you're ready, you can testify.

14 MS. ZERBE: Thank you very much.

15 My name is Faith Zerbe. I'm calling
16 today really as part of the Schuylkill Pipeline
17 Awareness. Schuylkill Pipeline Awareness, I'm a
18 co-founder of that volunteer organization. And we
19 are a group of residents who organized in Schuylkill
20 County to stop the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline. That
21 pipeline cut 195 mile swath through the center state
22 west of the Delaware watershed with a lot of
23 violations and problems.

24 In fact, in those days, we were
25 hearing theories, you know, if the Atlantic Sunrise

1 Pipeline was built, the PennEast Pipeline would not
2 be needed. And certainly we're hearing today that
3 the financial - the financial outcome of the
4 PennEast does sound quite precarious. I'm urging
5 you, DEP, to rescind the 401 and deny the chapter
6 102 and 105 permits now and stop repeating the harms
7 that we keep seeing from pipelines. I echo comments
8 the public comment system disenfranchises the public
9 and is an effort - with the time being - and all the
10 pending legal decisions and issues in New Jersey.

11 But what also disenfranchises the
12 communities even more is the facts and track record
13 these moving pipes have both locally here in
14 Pennsylvania but also the fact that on climate
15 change and the heated earth we are leaving behind
16 for generations and future generations by continuing
17 to permit more methane exploitation and fracking and
18 pipelines that now want to export gas to the highest
19 foreign bidder. The LNG facility on the banks of
20 the Delaware River, for example. This is
21 unacceptable with the facts, you know, and a ticking
22 time bomb that climate science clearly shows. We
23 have less than ten years to change our path.

24 We know there are also substantial
25 expert reports and technical comments on the record

1 for PennEast, again with the different phases and
2 the different variations. I myself in my capacity
3 as a scientist have surveyed some areas that would
4 be cut by PennEast, the beautiful trout streams, the
5 exceptional water and high quality streams located
6 up in Carbon and Luzerne and other areas that will
7 be impacted. We know they're impacted, because
8 we've seen the track record and we've seen the
9 science.

10 Folks spoke about the Mariner East II
11 Pipeline which has certainly had many violations,
12 but the Mariner Pipeline East started expanding -.

13 MS. CONNOLLY: Thirty (30) seconds.

14 MS. ZERBE: The Tennessee Gap
15 Pipeline, and other - that whole pay to play. To do
16 that, we allow them to do an open cut instead of HGG
17 in many cases, cutting down riparian buffers,
18 compacting indigenous soil, cutting down the forest,
19 cutting on huge slopes and causing laden issues in
20 our streams, changes in water quality which changes
21 the fish quality, and other impacts that again are
22 very much on the record.

23 So again, we urge you - we know time
24 is strapped at the agency. Let's just deny this
25 permit once and for all. Let's stand up for

1 Pennsylvania and do the right thing and deny
2 PennEast's permit. And we can get on with the work
3 collectively together to get renewal energy and
4 sustainable energy that is what the climate and the
5 science demands we do.

6 Thank you very much for your time.

7 MS. CONNOLLY: All right. Thank you,
8 ma'am. I appreciate it.

9 Okay. It is 9:00 - if you could mute
10 your microphone. Thank you. Okay.

11 It is 9:01. That concludes this
12 virtual public hearing regarding - .

13 MR. JAGIELA: Pardon me.

14 MS. CONNOLLY: Yes.

15 MR. JAGIELA: We have one other
16 person. Rosemary Fuller who was actually scheduled,
17 she is calling in.

18 MS. CONNOLLY: Do we have her on the
19 line?

20 MR. JAGIELA: Not yet.

21 I just got off the phone with her.
22 She is trying to call in right now.

23 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay. Darek, do we
24 have Ms. Fuller yet? Rosemary Fuller? I know we
25 were waiting on one more. There's some people

1 questioning - I'm going to close out the record, so
2 -.

3 MR. JAGIELA: Yes. If we don't see
4 her in a couple minutes, I would close it out.

5 MS. CONNOLLY: Okay.

6 Okay. I'm going to go back on the
7 record now. We can't seem to get Ms. Rosemary
8 Fuller on the line. It is 9:10 p.m. on Wednesday,
9 January 13th. I'm going to conclude this virtual
10 public hearing regarding the permit application for
11 phase I of PennEast pipeline project. Written
12 comments, which will hold the same weight as virtual
13 public comments, will be accepted by the Department
14 until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20th.

15 You can e-mail them to me, Colleen
16 Connolly, at coconnolly@pa.gov, the same e-mail
17 address that was on your e-mails when you registered
18 for the virtual public hearing. I want to thank
19 everyone for coming out tonight.

20 If you have any questions, please
21 check the DEP public participation policy webpage
22 for more information. Thank you again for attending
23 this virtual public hearing. This concludes the
24 hearing.

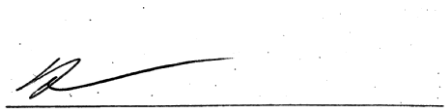
25 * * HEARING CONCLUDED AT 9:13 P.M. * *

CERTIFICATE

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I hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was reported by me on 01/13/2021 and that I, Brian D. O'Hare, read this transcript and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding. This notarial act involved the use of communication technology.

Dated the 22nd day of January, 2021



Brian D. O'Hare
Court Reporter