LEANNE KRUEGER-BRANEKY, MEMBER 161ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS COMMERCE **ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY** LABOR & INDUSTRY POLICY

June 20, 2019

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

Dear Secretary McDonnell:

As state representative for the 161st Legislative District in Delaware County, I must write to express my opposition to Sunoco Logistics' plan drill a tunnel for a second 20-inch pipeline running beneath Chester Creek, as I believe it puts both our water quality and our residents in undue danger.

This is not baseless speculation. This is not even a general complaint against the practice of horizontal directional drilling through residential neighborhoods. This is a call to acknowledge the precedent of failure in the Mariner East 2 pipeline's construction activities in this very same area. This is a call for the DEP to learn from past mistakes and to protect the private property of our citizens.

On May 3, 2017, HDD for a 16-inch pipe in this same location led to multiple inadvertent returns that impacted water quality and private property. At the time, I had no idea what an inadvertent return was when I received calls from panicked residents in Brookhaven. They saw brown water shooting up from the ground in their front yards and had no idea what was happening in their neighborhood because Sunoco Logistics never applied for permits to drill in Brookhaven, only in Aston. Local elected officials were in the dark as well because there were no permit applications for Brookhaven. I visited the site on Mother's Day with my five-year-old-son and we saw a residential neighborhood that looked like the site of a natural disaster. There was brown material actively visible in the creek, front yards were barricaded with sandbags, and the barrier material that Sunoco installed to attempt to contain the drilling fluid had broken lose and was hanging on branches all over the creek. It took weeks for them to clean it up. This accident led to the very

first notice of violation that Sunoco Logistics received in the construction of the Mariner East 2 project.

On July 6, 2018, there was another construction accident a few miles down the road on Judy Way in Aston. This time, a contractor hired by Sunoco Logistics was working a few hundred feet from a facility run by Elywn that serves individuals with significant disabilities. The contractor hit a sewage line and raw sewage backed up into the parking lot, leading to the emergency evacuation of people in wheelchairs. This accident also led to a notice of violation because Elwyn's sewage lateral was damaged by the contractor. Sunoco Logistics was fined for this incident, in part, because Sunoco never reported the incident. DEP only learned about the accident after my office called to share what we heard from impacted families.

Therefore, I must oppose the planned drilling beneath Chester Creek. These sites are not conducive to HDD and the neighbors have already faced significant hardship as a result of this project. Delaware County has already been impacted by 13 accidents that received notices of violation since construction on the Mariner East 2 pipeline began. We've suffered enough. I urge the DEP to reject this application.

Sincerely,

Leanne Krueger

State Representative

161st Legislative District