



# Pennsylvania State Grange

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August 16, 2016

Pa. Department of Environmental Protection  
Scott Williamson, Program Manager  
Waterways and Wetlands  
909 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Dear Mr. Williamson:

As President of The Pennsylvania State Grange, the oldest agricultural and rural advocacy organization of its kind in the United States, representing approximately 9,000 residents across the Commonwealth, I would like to offer comments related to Sunoco Logistics' Mariner East 2 Pipeline Project, which currently is under review by the Department of Environmental Protection.

I can tell you firsthand that Pennsylvania farmers have a rich tradition as stewards of the land. We have a strong connection to our surroundings. And, we only support projects that strike the right balance between respecting the land and putting it to proper use for the benefit of Pennsylvanians. In other words, Grange members are concerned both about energy production --- to become less dependent upon foreign and often volatile energy imports --- and environmental issues. We believe the two can work hand in hand.

Many people express concerns about pipeline safety. You should know that study after study and government data have found pipelines to be the safest, most environmentally friendly way to transport natural gas and natural gas liquids. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, pipelines outperform all other types of infrastructure in safety, efficiency, reliability, environmental stewardship and cost. I can attest to this personally. A pipeline runs across my land. Even with it there, we are able to utilize our land without issue --- the pipeline does not disrupt our way of life --- and without concern. Many of our farmers and agricultural partners share similar stories.

Agriculture is the largest industry in Pennsylvania, contributing more than \$67 billion annually in economic output across more than 7.75 million acres of agricultural land. But when we think about farming in the commonwealth, it is important to understand that our sector is increasingly energy dependent. As the farming industry looks to what the future may hold, we see development of robust energy as indispensable. That means we need access to reliable energy supplies that pipelines deliver.

From crop-drying to powering equipment, natural gas and gas liquids like propane are increasingly important to a successful farming operation. Greater access to low-cost natural resources will drive down electrical generation costs and decrease costs of major agriculture inputs like fertilizer.

Safe and efficient construction of the Mariner East 2 pipeline will help us achieve these goals. Ultimately, this project will facilitate access to domestically produced natural gas liquids (NGLs) for residents throughout the region, creating a catalyst for industrial and commercial activity throughout the entire Northeast. The key is making sure the vast amount of energy resources we harvest here at home are put to use here, too, for our own domestic needs and for our overall energy and economic security. NGLs have a wide range of uses --- from the production of plastics and petrochemicals to residential and commercial heating, among others, including feedstock for fertilizers, as I mentioned. These Pennsylvania energy resources can help power Pennsylvania's continued economic renaissance.

For the Pennsylvania State Grange, which is the oldest agricultural and rural advocacy organization of its kind in the United States, ensuring that our industry has long-term access to clean energy is a critical need. We support projects that strike the right balance between respecting the land and putting it to proper use for the benefit of Pennsylvanians. I believe this project accomplishes that goal and urge DEP to approve the permits for Mariner East 2.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

SINCERELY,

*Elizabeth Downey*

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The Pennsylvania State Grange supports the local Granges to promote family involvement, help members grow as individuals, unify their communities, and create opportunity through legislation and service.