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House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

September 6, 2016

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

Dear Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell:

As an elected state official, I have heard from a growing number of Delaware County residents who have reached out to voice their concerns regarding the safety of the proposed Delaware County Pipeline (part of the Sunoco Mariner 2 Pipeline project). Parents and local home owners are concerned that the proposed pipeline will deviate significantly from the footprint of the current pipeline when it comes through Delaware County and that it will run near or through elementary school playgrounds, local orchards, and perhaps even sacred Native American sites. Not only are their concerns related to the safety of their food and water supply, but they are seriously concerned about a threat to public safety should there be a leak, or even worse, an explosion.

I am very concerned that there has been no public hearing Delaware County, even though I understand that Delaware County is one of only two counties in the Commonwealth where the proposed pipeline route deviates significantly from the original pipeline already in place. Before a completely new pipeline is built, local residents deserve the forum of a public hearing to address their concerns about public health and public safety. I respectfully request that DEP extend the public comment period and schedule a hearing in Delaware County so that their concerns may be heard.

It has been also brought to my attention that there is a dispute over which agency should regulate this pipeline – the PUC or the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). The materials transported by the new pipeline are different from the original materials transported in the original pipeline. The materials to be transported in the new Mariner 2 pipeline are being transported for export, not use by the people of Pennsylvania. My constituents are concerned that the correct agency is not overseeing the project, and that the safety of their communities, their schools and their food and water supply could be in jeopardy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LKB", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Leanne Krueger-Branecky
State Representative - 161st District (Delaware County)