

June 29, 2021

Mr. Patrick Patterson  
Southeast Regional Director  
Department of Environmental Protection  
2 Main Street  
Norristown, PA 19401

**RE: Chapter 102 Permit No. ESG0100015001 and Chapter 105 Permit No. E15-862**

Dear Mr. Patterson:

I am writing to urge you to approve Sunoco Pipeline LP's request for permit modifications to complete the remainder of the Mariner East 2 Pipeline.

Shale energy development throughout the Appalachian Basin has been critical not only to Pennsylvania's economy but that of the region as well, including my home state of Ohio. Across the two states the oil and natural gas [industry supports](#) over 580,000 jobs and more than \$82 billion in economic activity. Ensuring there is the appropriate infrastructure to support this industry is important.

During my time in Congress, few could have predicted the wholesale transformation of the United States' energy outlook that has occurred over the past two decades. Shale energy production has repositioned the United States from dependence on foreign suppliers into a role as a global energy provider. In 2019, America became a net-energy exporter for the first time in nearly 70 years. Last year domestic production increased that margin even further. Yet, continued growth depends on infrastructure investment.

The Mariner East 2 Pipeline will provide an important connection between the region's energy producers and consumers. Once fully operational, the Mariner East 2 pipeline will transport up to 345,000 barrels of natural gas products per day, which will alleviate dependence on alternative transportation options.

In that way, the pipeline will help protect surrounding communities and the environment. Pipelines are the safest form of energy transportation, with a success rate of more than 99.99 percent. A study by the Frasier Institute found that rail shipments are 4.5 times more likely to experience failure than pipelines. By removing loads from our roads and railways, the Mariner East will reduce the chance of a significant spill.

The requested permit amendments (Chapter 102 Permit No. ESG0100015001 and Chapter 105 Permit No. E15-862) will provide the authorization for the safe completion of this project.

Despite recent setbacks, the developer has and continues to work in good faith with authorities at every level to achieve the project's safe completion. Construction of the Mariner East 2 was interrupted last fall following occurrences of inadvertent returns. The permit amendments will allow that section of pipe to be installed via open trench, rather than horizontal directional drilling. The alternative method will preclude any further inadvertent returns, since no drilling will be required, and ensure the project's safe, environmentally responsible completion.

The Mariner East 2 Pipeline is a critical piece of infrastructure for our region and country that will impact communities far beyond the borders of Pennsylvania. I encourage the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to approve the permit requests without delay.

Thank you for your consideration. I appreciate the opportunity to discuss this matter with you.

Sincerely,

Bob McEwen  
Former U.S. Congressman, Ohio