STATE SENATOR

JOHN M. DISANTO

15TH DISTRICT

DAUPHIN AND PERRY COUNTIES

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Senate of Pennsylvania

January 31, 2017

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission 400 North Street, Keystone Building Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE:

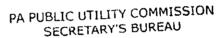
PUC Docket No. A-2016-2575829

Application of Laurel Pipeline, L.P.

Dear Chairman Brown:

RECEIVED

FEB - 1 2017



I'm writing today about the proposal by Buckeye Partners to reverse the flow on their Laurel pipeline between Altoona and the greater Pittsburgh area. I am concerned that this change will have impacts that will adversely affect the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. From increases in fuel prices in western PA to economic damage to the refineries in southeast PA, the proposal may appear to have minimal impact but is clearly of great consequence.

Currently, the greater Pittsburgh fuel market is supplied by multiple pipelines from Ohio and Chicago based refineries, but there is only one line that feeds Pittsburgh from the east – the Laurel pipeline. Reversing Laurel would make it impossible to move fuel to Pittsburgh via pipeline from the east. While currently, the Pittsburgh area fuel retailers are able to buy product from the Midwest or from the southeast PA refineries (and chose to do so depending upon which is cheapest), the pipeline reversal will eliminate this optionality and restrict competition.

This reversal would severely restrict the ability of the southeastern PA refineries to distribute their refined products to the west. Restricted distribution options can have devastating economic effects. These refineries employ well over 1000 people and support a massive number of indirect jobs. The Commonwealth of PA made large investments over the past few years to ensure these employers stay in business. It would be troubling to allow a pipeline reversal that would threaten all of that hard work and investment.

It appears the Buckeye proposal currently pending before the PUC would only benefit Buckeye and would upend the long established distribution network in PA. We request that the matter be referred to an administrative law judge for a full hearing. It is imperative that a change of this magnitude be given the due diligence it deserves.

Sincerely,

Senator John M. DiSanto
15 Senatorial District

CC: Vice-Chairman Andrew Place Commissioner John Coleman Commissioner Robert Powelson Commissioner David Sweet Secretary Rosemary Chiavetta Senator John Disanto Senate of Pennsylvania Room 352 Main Capitol Harrisburg, PA 17120

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Chairman Gladys Brown PA Public Utility Commission 400 North Street, Keystone Building Harrisburg, PA 17120