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Senate of Pennsylvania

February 1, 2017

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CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE~~

Honorable Gladys M. Brown, Chairman  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street, Keystone Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

**RE: PUC Docket No. A-2016-2575829, Application of Laurel Pipeline, L.P.**

Dear Chairman Brown:

We are writing to inform you of our concerns for the above-referenced application submitted by Buckeye Partners seeking to reverse the flow of a portion of its Laurel pipeline. We urge you to carefully consider the economic consequences of this request, including its impact to consumer pricing and effects on refineries and communities in southeastern Pennsylvania.

While the greater Pittsburgh fuel market is supplied by multiple pipelines from Ohio- and Chicago-based refineries, only the Laurel pipeline supplies Pittsburgh from the east and from in-state refineries. Reversing any portion or all of the pipeline would make it impossible to move fuel from the Philadelphia area. Such an action may threaten more than 1,000 direct and indirect jobs supported by the refineries, as well as reduce competition in the southwestern Pennsylvania fuel market. Moreover, potential alternatives to move fuel over the highways may result in additional congestion on our already busy roadways, increasing wear and tear and causing additional strain on our infrastructure.

Because of the potentially negative impacts that could result from the proposal, we request that the matter be examined thoroughly before action is taken. We suggest that the application be referred to an Administrative Law Judge for an evidentiary hearing so that all parties may have an opportunity to be heard and present evidence in support of their respective positions.

Sincerely,

Gene Yaw, Majority Chairman  
Senate Environmental Resources &  
Energy Committee

John T. Yudichak, Democratic Chairman  
Senate Environmental Resources & Energy  
Committee

Cc: Vice-Chairman Andrew G. Place  
Commissioner John F. Coleman, Jr.  
Commissioner Robert F. Powelson  
Commissioner David W. Sweet  
Secretary Rosemary Chiavetta



Senate of Pennsylvania

23RD DISTRICT

**GENE YAW**

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HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3023

Honorable Gladys M. Brown, Chairman  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street, Keystone Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**MESSENGER**