

Susan Loucks

922 Jancey St Pittsburgh PA 15206

Re: Docket No. L-2019-3010267

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on pipeline rules.

I moved to Pennsylvania four and a half years ago, and I immediately got the sense that the history of this state was about wave after wave of extraction – timber, coal, and now natural gas. When I visited the forests, I could marvel at what a good job had been done at restoring them, but they were clearly far from undisturbed.

What will the future of the state be, I wondered. Is it still about taking everything we can get from the land, or is a different relationship possible?

I've been watching as protesters block pipeline expansion in the west and in New England, the place I most consider home. I share their vision that infrastructure for fossil fuel use is not a wise long-term choice. We've seen fracking and oil pipe breakage pollute groundwater and create terrible earthquakes. We've seen the devastation of the tar sands, stripping barren land in Alberta the same square footage as the state of Florida. I don't us to be complicit in these systems – I want us to create new ones.

I am not, as you have undoubtedly guessed, an expert on pipeline building. However, I would ask that as the state considers rules for pipelines, that you take the very hardest look at what rules will support continued life in this state for humans and all the other flora and fauna that make Pennsylvania unique. I ask that you set up a barrier between well-funded oil and gas companies and pipeline decisions, allowing citizens voices to be heard in deliberate and well-organized public processes. I ask that you always include robust scientific review as part of pipeline design and construction. I request that you prioritize the safety of schools, prisons, and areas with vulnerable populations – not because they are more worthy, but because their needs are more likely to be ignored.

Thank you again.