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Senate of Pennsylvania

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August 3, 2021

RECEIVED

AUG 3 - 2021

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

RE: Public comment on M-2020-³⁰⁰⁴⁶⁴⁶304646

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed settlement regarding the massive failure and resultant fire of Energy Transfer Company's (ETC) Revolution Pipeline in Center Township, Beaver County in the early morning hours of Sept. 10, 2018.

As you know, it is miraculous that a pipeline failure of such magnitude and potential for catastrophic impacts did not result in severe bodily injury or loss of human life.

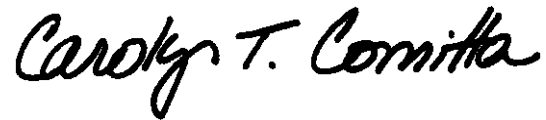
While I appreciate the fines levied as a result of this settlement and other Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection violations, please know that no penalty is great enough to ensure safety on this and other natural gas liquids pipelines. What will make the difference in helping ensure (and bolster public confidence in) pipeline safety in Pennsylvania is more oversight, more timely supervision, and more regulation.

As you know, it is believed the Revolution Pipeline failure was related to geological instability caused by heavy rainfall and erosion along unstable slopes. Again, while I appreciate the additional inspections, notification requirements, evaluations, and studies stipulated in this settlement, I am concerned that these are only required of ETC and the Revolution Pipeline. Meanwhile, other pipeline projects that are under construction or already in operation may and likely do face similar scenarios and concerns.

In fact, that is precisely why the PUC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) regarding regulations related to the safety of pipelines in intrastate commerce is so vitally important. As important as this settlement is, that process, which is currently underway, will be the true engine for change and stronger pipeline safeguards in Pennsylvania.

In taking this settlement and the limited guardrails it stipulates into account, I respectfully request that you keep these issues in mind as we move forward on the NOPR in an effort to enact effective and lasting change when it comes to pipeline safety and the safety of our communities, families, and children through Pennsylvania.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn T. Comitta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carolyn T. Comitta
State Senator – 19th District