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## Senate of Pennsylvania

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April 1, 2026

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The Honorable Stephen M. DeFrank, Chairman  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

RE: Proposed extension of bi-directional service on the Laurel Pipeline  
PUC Docket No. C-2025-3053018  
*Monroe Energy, LLC, Lucknow-Highspire Terminals, LLC, Sheetz, Inc. and PBF Holding  
Company LLC v. Laurel Pipeline Company, LLC*

Dear Chairman DeFrank:

I am writing to express my concern for the residents, consumers, workers and businesses of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania including Monroe Energy located in the 9<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District regarding the above-referenced matter. The Initial Decision, issued by a PUC Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) on January 14, 2026, is dismissive of local interests and the need for regulatory oversight, both of which will leave Pennsylvanians to suffer the consequences. I respectfully submit that the Commission reject the ALJ decision in its entirety or, if possible, approve a plan agreed upon by both sides.

The Laurel Pipeline is the last remaining large-volume pipeline capable of transporting petroleum products from Eastern Pennsylvania to the major Central and Western Pennsylvania markets. Currently, Buckeye Partners, through its local affiliate Laurel Pipeline (collectively, "Laurel-Buckeye") offers mostly East to West (one-way) shipments with bi-directional service provided only between Pittsburgh and Altoona. Although seemingly neutral, the existing 110-miles of bi-directional service has resulted in inconsistent service, including unreasonable delays and logistical challenges for shippers on a consistent basis. As such, the proposed extension of bi-directional service by another 147 miles (133% of the current bi-directional operations) will likely give rise to even worse outcomes for Pennsylvania shippers, refiners and consumers across the Commonwealth. It is critically important that the Commission rigorously examine the alleged benefits and actual feasibility of Laurel-Buckeye's new proposal to convert almost the entire pipeline into bi-directional operations.

Contrary to a measured approach, the ALJ's decision recommends granting the extension prematurely and unconditionally. Changing the historic operations of such an important public utility asset should require a thorough review by the Commission to ensure the proposed operational changes do not exacerbate the operational concerns we have heard from the affected shippers, including concerns that:

- A much longer and complicated bi-directional service with new unproven systems will lead to deterioration of service over the entire pipeline.


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- Fuel transit times will be radically variable leading to missed/delayed shipments or even product shortages and resulting price impacts on consumers.
- Heating oil, a fuel produced almost exclusively by Eastern refineries and still widely used in homes across Pennsylvania, will not be readily available if the direction of flow on the pipeline can be dictated solely by out-of-state markets rather than local needs.
- Thousands of Pennsylvania jobs within and outside of the petroleum industry will be at risk if shippers, refiners and retailers who rely on the pipeline are forced to reduce their operations or shut down for lack of adequate service on the pipeline. This includes just over 200 members of United Steelworkers Local 10-234 and the 350-2,000 members of the Philadelphia Building Trades that work at Monroe Energy every day or during maintenance projects providing over 750,000 work hours annually.

I am concerned that jobs will be lost at many facilities and in particular Monroe Energy. Now more than ever we need to support good employers like Monroe that provide family sustaining wages to the men and women of organized labor and to so many more Pennsylvanians.

In conclusion, the eventual result of the ALJ decision, if upheld, is that Laurel-Buckeye will cease providing consistent and reliable West-bound fuel to Pennsylvania residents, contrary to the pipeline's use since the 1950s. I trust the PUC will consider the benefits of subjecting Laurel-Buckeye to a comprehensive Application review process rather than authorizing them to press ahead and leave refiners, shippers and consumers with the burden of filing Complaints when things inevitably go wrong after such a major operational upheaval.

Sincerely,



John I. Kane  
Senate of Pennsylvania  
9<sup>th</sup> Senate District

cc: Honorable Kimberly M. Barrow, Vice-Chair  
Honorable Kathryn L. Zerfuss, Commissioner  
Honorable John F. Coleman, Jr., Commissioner  
Honorable Ralph V. Yanora, Commissioner  
Honorable Mathew L. Homsher, Secretary ✓