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House of Representatives  
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April 6, 2026

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

Re: Proposed Extension of Bi-Directional Service on the Laurel Pipeline  
PUC Docket No. C-2025-3053018 *Monroe Energy, LLC, et al. v. Laurel Pipeline Company, LLC*

Dear Chairman DeFrank:

I am writing about an affordability issue that is important to the constituents of my district. People come to my office all the time talking about the price of groceries, housing, and energy costs. With the skyrocketing cost of fuel these issues touch upon the daily lives of Pennsylvanians. Because of the war, gasoline prices in Pennsylvania have steadily increased over the last several weeks. I think a matter before you is relevant to the larger affordability issue and goes to the quality of life of Pennsylvanians.

As you know, since 2019, the Laurel Pipe Line Company, L.P. ("Laurel") has provided bi-directional service over the portion of the Laurel pipeline system located between Altoona and Pittsburgh. This bi-directional service has meant that shippers in Western Pennsylvania have benefited from increased supplies of competitively priced gasoline, diesel, and heating oil from both Midwest refineries and East Coast refineries. Laurel now seeks to implement an extension of bi-directional service—which would result in bi-directional operations between Pittsburgh and Reading. This would extend bi-directional benefits to even more of the shipping community and even more of the Commonwealth. Bi-directional operations are a win for the pipeline, a win for shippers, and a win for Pennsylvania.

Despite these benefits, four of the shippers that use the Laurel pipeline system out of 39 total shippers filed a complaint. The complaint is an attempt to stymie competition, hold Laurel's operations captive to the whims of the four complainant-shippers, and deny other shippers and the Pennsylvania public at large the benefits of bi-directional operations.

An Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") applied the plain language of the Public Utility Code and Pennsylvania precedent—some of which stretches back more than a century—to the record and issued a reasoned, evidence-based Initial Decision ("ID") that concluded the complaint should be denied.

Some of the findings in the ID are:

- “Bi-directional service increases the flexibility and liquidity of the Laurel pipeline system by enabling demand to be met from additional origins. . .” ID, p. 18 (Finding of Fact ¶ 71).
- “The resulting benefit to the shippers and the public include: greater supply reliability through access to additional origins; increased competition for market supply to help ensure the best available price for shippers and consumers; expanded overall capacity of the pipeline system; and more optimal utilization of the pipeline asset, which enables more efficient and enhanced transportation services.” ID, p. 132 (quoting Laurel St. No. 4-R at 22).
- There is zero evidence (and the complainant-shippers made no claim) that bi-directional operations would result in decreased supplies of heating oil or diesel fuel in Pennsylvania.
- There is zero evidence that shows bi-directional operations have impacted, or will impact, Pennsylvania jobs.

The bi-directional operations over Laurel’s pipeline system have benefited and will continue to benefit Pennsylvania with such benefits including enhanced access to reliable and competitively priced liquid fuel supplies, including gasoline, diesel and home heating oil.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jared Solomon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jared Solomon  
State Representative 202<sup>nd</sup> District