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Senate of Pennsylvania

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April 24, 2026

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 2nd Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Homsher:

I am writing in support of the proposed extension of the Laurel Pipeline from Altoona to Reading. As policymakers and stakeholders evaluate Pennsylvania's long-term energy infrastructure needs, this project represents a practical, market-based approach to enhancing fuel supply reliability, affordability, and competition throughout the Commonwealth.

Since the General Assembly previously considered proposals to reverse portions of the Laurel Pipeline, the energy landscape has continued to shift. Domestic fuel production has grown substantially, creating new opportunities for Pennsylvania consumers and small businesses to benefit from greater access to competitively priced, American-made fuels. The proposed extension builds on that progress by improving the delivery of energy products into central and eastern Pennsylvania, where demand remains strong.

Economic analysis and market data indicate that increasing eastbound fuel access helps ease transportation constraints while improving price transparency and competition. Expanding the pipeline's capacity to move domestic fuels more efficiently is expected to place downward pressure on fuel costs across the state, benefiting households, small businesses, transportation providers, and agricultural operations that rely on stable and affordable energy.

Enhancing Pennsylvania's energy resilience is also a critical consideration. Recent refinery closures and operational uncertainties along the East Coast highlight the vulnerability of regional fuel markets when supply chains depend on a limited number of refining hubs. By enabling additional supply routes from the Midwest, the Laurel Pipeline extension provides an important safeguard against potential disruptions and strengthens the Commonwealth's long-term energy security.

It is also important to recognize that modernizing existing pipeline infrastructure, rather than increasing reliance on truck or rail transport, supports public safety, environmental stewardship, and logistical efficiency. Pipelines remain the safest and most cost-effective method for transporting liquid fuels, and responsible infrastructure improvements such as this one advance both reliability and environmental performance.

Efforts to restrict or constrain competitive fuel transportation systems risk working against the interests of Pennsylvania consumers. Allowing markets to operate efficiently helps ensure that families and businesses have access to the most affordable, domestically sourced fuels available. A wide range of stakeholders, including labor organizations, industry representatives, and community partners, have acknowledged the value of projects that expand energy access while supporting family-sustaining jobs in construction, maintenance, and operations.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to approve the Laurel Pipeline extension from Altoona to Reading. This project supports consumer savings, strengthens energy security, and positions Pennsylvania to meet future energy needs in a responsible and competitive manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Pisciotano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nick" being particularly prominent.

Senator Nick Pisciotano  
Allegheny County | 45th District