



## Senate of Pennsylvania

05/18/2026

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North St  
Harrisburg PA 17120

Dear Secretary Homsher,

I am writing in support of the proposed Laurel Pipeline extension from Altoona to Reading. As policymakers and stakeholders continue to assess Pennsylvania's long-term energy infrastructure needs, this project represents a pragmatic, market-driven step toward strengthening fuel supply reliability, affordability, and competition across the Commonwealth.

Since the General Assembly first reviewed proposals to reverse sections of the Laurel Pipeline several years ago, the energy landscape has continued to evolve. Domestic fuel production has expanded significantly, creating new opportunities for Pennsylvania consumers and small businesses to benefit from increased access to competitively priced, American-made fuels. The proposed extension builds on this progress by improving the flow of energy products into Pennsylvania's central and eastern regions, where demand continues to grow.

Economic testimony and market data consistently show that enhancing eastbound fuel access helps reduce transportation constraints and improves price transparency and competition. Expanding the pipeline's ability to move domestic fuels more efficiently will create downward pressure on fuel costs statewide, supporting household budgets, small businesses, transportation providers, and agricultural operations that depend on stable, affordable energy.

Strengthening Pennsylvania's energy resilience is equally important. Recent refinery closures and operational uncertainties across the East Coast demonstrate how vulnerable regional fuel markets can become when supply chains rely heavily on a limited number of refining centers. By enabling additional supply routes from the Midwest, the Laurel extension provides an important buffer against potential disruptions and enhances the Commonwealth's long-term energy security.

It is also important to note that modernizing existing pipeline infrastructure—rather than relying more heavily on truck or rail transport—supports public safety, environmental stewardship, and efficient logistics. Pipelines remain the safest and most cost-effective means of transporting liquid fuels, and responsible infrastructure upgrades such as this one support both reliability and environmental performance. Efforts to restrict or limit the operation of competitive fuel transportation systems risk undermining the interests of Pennsylvania consumers. Allowing the market to function efficiently ensures that families and businesses have access to the most affordable, domestically sourced fuels available. A broad range of stakeholders, including labor organizations, industry groups, and community partners, have recognized the value of projects that expand energy access while supporting good-paying jobs in construction, maintenance, and operations.

For these reasons, I encourage the Commission to approve the Laurel Pipeline extension from Altoona to Reading. This project promotes consumer savings, reinforces energy security, and positions Pennsylvania to meet future energy needs responsibly and competitively.

Sincerely,



Senator Elder Vogel Jr.  
47<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



Senator Camera Bartolotta  
46<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



Senator Devlin Robinson  
37<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District