

ROB KAUFFMAN, MEMBER
89TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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RULES

July 20, 2026

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

COPY

Dear Secretary Homsher,

We write to you as State Representatives for the citizens of Franklin County to convey our adamant and unyielding protest against the reconstituted and ongoing efforts by Transource Pennsylvania, LLC to construct the Transource Project 9A (Independence Energy Connection) high-voltage transmission lines through the heart of our community. On behalf of our constituents, local family farmers, and landowners, we urge the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to exhaustively defend its statutory authority over state utility siting and resist this continuous overreach by out-of-state corporate interests.

Specifically, we are writing to formally oppose Transource's recent petition to consolidate its Certificate of Public Convenience application, its siting and construction application, and its petition for exemption from local zoning (PA PUC Docket Nos. A-2026-3062675, A-2026-3062686, and P-2026-3062687). This requested consolidation is a procedural maneuver designed to fast-track approval, obfuscate distinct local impacts, and severely limit the ability of the public and local officials to thoroughly scrutinize each portion of this massive undertaking. Each of these dockets presents distinct legal, environmental, and economic threats to Franklin County and demands rigorous, independent evaluation. We adamantly oppose the consolidation of these dockets, and further state our explicit opposition to each petition individually.

Beginning with the Certificate of Public Convenience application at Docket No. A-2026-3062675, we strongly urge the Commission to deny the issuance of the CPC. This Commission previously established a well-reasoned, legally sound precedent when it unanimously denied Transource's applications in May 2021, citing a failure to prove an inherent physical or reliability need within the Commonwealth. While recent federal litigation has attempted to narrow the scope of state discretion, the core statutory duties of the Commission regarding the issuance of a CPC remain intact. Project 9A remains functionally structured as a "market efficiency" project designed to serve as an expensive extension cord, exporting our cheap regional energy to out-of-state consumer hubs in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. It forces Pennsylvania landowners to bear 100% of the physical risk and property degradation for a project conceived exclusively to satisfy regional capacity outside our borders that is only needed because of the failed energy policies within those states. It is fundamentally unjust and unreasonable to grant a CPC that demands Franklin County sacrifice its landscape for a project offering no return to its citizens.

The application for siting and construction at Docket No. A-2026-3062686, should likewise be denied. Regarding the specific route-siting application, the physical destruction and permanent devaluation of irreplaceable, historically protected agricultural land in Franklin County remains one of the most egregious aspects of Project 9A. Franklin County's agricultural sector is not merely an economic driver, it is our heritage and a critical component of the Commonwealth's food security footprint. Siting massive, 135-ft high-voltage towers across 29 miles of pristine property, prime soil, and actively preserved farms will cause irreparable harm to our soil structures, disrupt complex drainage networks, and heavily restrict modern farming operations. The PUC has an obligation to reject this siting application to protect these irreplaceable natural resources from predatory and unnecessary infrastructure deployment.

Finally, the petition for exemption from local zoning regulation at Docket No. P-2026-3062687 is nothing more than an attempt to circumvent local control, and we adamantly oppose the petition. Stripping our local municipalities of their zoning authority is a direct assault on community oversight. Beyond the destruction of agricultural assets, the siting of this massive 500 kV corridor introduces extensive logistical and physical dangers to Franklin County. The proposed path carves directly through commercial zones, private neighborhoods, school-adjacent properties, and untouched greenspaces. Bypassing local zoning severely threatens our local viewshed, depresses long-term property values, and complicates future municipal zoning and economic development. Furthermore, forcing these industrial corridors onto our rural landscape without local oversight introduces structural and environmental volatility, altering local water tables, disrupting natural ecosystems, and presenting unnecessary physical burdens to our first responders and rural communities during severe weather events.

The Commission has historically served as a vital shield for Pennsylvania citizens against arbitrary utility development. We call upon you to maintain that shield, deny the motion to consolidate, and fiercely scrutinize, and ultimately reject, every remaining element of Transource's dockets to prevent this catastrophic intrusion into Franklin County.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued service to the Commonwealth.

Best Regards,



Rob Kauffman, Republican Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
89th Legislative District



Rich Irvin
State Representative
81st Legislative District



Chad Reichard
State Representative
90th Legislative District



House of Representatives

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