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January 31, 2017

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
400 North Street, Keystone Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: PUC Docket No. A-2016-2575829
Application of Laurel Pipeline, L.P.

Dear Chairman Brown:

In the above referenced application, Buckeye Partners seeks approval to reverse the flow on its Laurel pipeline between Altoona and the greater Pittsburgh area. After reviewing the application and speaking with stakeholders, I am concerned that this change may adversely impact the Commonwealth and request that the PUC refer this application to the Office of Administrative Law Judge for a hearing.

It is my understanding that the fuel market in western Pennsylvania is supplied by multiple pipelines from Ohio and Chicago based refineries, but currently only the Laurel Pipeline serves Pittsburgh from the east. Reversing Laurel would make it impossible to move fuel to Pittsburgh by pipeline from the eastern part of the state. While Pittsburgh area fuel retailers are able to buy product from refineries located in the Midwest or southeastern PA, eliminating one of these choices will negate the ability of retailers to purchase product from either East coast or Midwest refineries based upon price and other market conditions. This will negatively impact the competitive environment.

I am also concerned about the possible economic impacts the reversal proposed in the application would have on the ability of southeastern PA refineries to deliver their products to the west. Southeastern PA refineries provide family-sustaining jobs for over 1000 employees and over the last several years, significant investment has been made by the Commonwealth to further develop petroleum refineries in the eastern part of the state.

For these reasons, I ask that this application be sent to the Office of Administrative Law Judge for adjudicatory proceedings so that all stakeholders may have an opportunity to present evidence detailing the basis for and impacts of reversing the flow of this pipeline. A complete evidentiary record will enable the Commission to make a determination that is in the public interest and based upon a full vetting of this issue.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Godshall, Majority Chairman
House Consumer Affairs Committee

Thomas Caltagirone, Minority Chairman
House Consumer Affairs Committee

CC: Vice-Chairman Andrew Place
Commissioner John Coleman
Commissioner Robert Powelson
Commissioner David Sweet
Secretary Rosemary Chiavetta



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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*Chairman Correspondence
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House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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HAND CARRY

RUSH

Chairman Gladys Brown
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