

**GREG ROTHMAN, MEMBER
87TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

HARRISBURG OFFICE
163-A EAST WING
PO BOX 202087
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2087
PHONE: 717-783-2063



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

DISTRICT OFFICE
1200 CAMP HILL BY-PASS
SUITE 202
CAMP HILL, PA 17011
PHONE: 717-975-2235
FAX: 717-975-2229

**GROTHMAN@PAHOUSEGOP.COM
WWW.REPROTHMAN.COM**

February 1, 2017

Ms. Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
400 North Street, Keystone Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RECEIVED

FEB 01 2017

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

**PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

I am writing concerning the proposal by Buckeye Partners to reverse the flow on their Laurel pipeline between Altoona and the greater Pittsburgh area. I believe that this change will have impacts that may adversely affect the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. From increases in fuel prices in western Pennsylvania to damaging the refineries in southeast Pennsylvania, potential job losses, and an increase in truck traffic, this proposal will have great consequences for the community.

The greater Pittsburgh fuel market is supplied by multiple pipelines from Ohio and Chicago based refineries, but the Laurel pipeline is the only one line that feeds Pittsburgh from the east. Reversing Laurel may make it impossible to move fuel to Pittsburgh via pipeline. Currently, the Pittsburgh area fuel retailers are able to buy product from the Midwest or from the southern PA refineries. The pipeline reversal will eliminate this option and make it substantially more difficult for a competitive environment to exist.

Furthermore, transporting gasoline from Altoona to Pittsburg would exacerbate congestion on our already busy roadways. This proposal would add hundreds of trucks per day to Pennsylvania highways, increasing the strain on our infrastructure and causing more environmental and noise pollution. The proposed reversal would also severely restrict the ability of the southeastern Pennsylvania refineries to distribute their refined products to the west. These refineries employ well over 1000 that may be threatened should this reversal move forward.

The Buckeye proposal must be examined. I request that the matter be referred to an administrative law judge for a hearing so that all parties may detail their wide-ranging concerns. It is imperative that a change of this magnitude be given the due diligence it deserves.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'WGP' with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

GREG ROTHMAN
State Representative
87th Legislative District

CC: Chairman Gladys Brown
Vice-Chairman Andrew Place
Commissioner John Coleman
Commissioner Robert Powelson
Commissioner David Sweet



House of Representatives

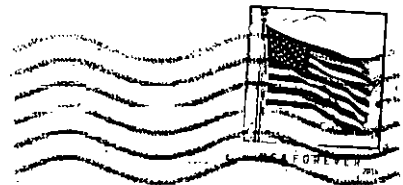
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

GREG ROTHMAN, MEMBER

PO BOX 202087
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2087

HARRISBURG PA 171

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

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