



October 2, 2017

Secretary Rosemary Chiavetta
PA Public Utility Commission
Secretary's Bureau
400 North Street, Keystone Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia (Chamber) and the Greater Philadelphia Energy Action Team (GPEAT) are committed to enhancing the economic growth and prosperity in the 11-county region across northern Delaware, southern New Jersey and southeastern Pennsylvania, particularly in the energy and manufacturing sectors.

On behalf of many members of the Chamber and GPEAT, I'm writing to express our serious concern about the possible reversal of the Laurel Pipeline. Since the inception of GPEAT, Monroe Energy and Philadelphia Energy Solutions ("PES") have been crucial founding partners in our efforts to establish an energy hub in the Greater Philadelphia region. Achieving this vision will make our region's energy and manufacturing sectors stronger and better prepared for the future. But a Laurel reversal would hinder the ability of regional manufacturing to grow and evolve, would lead to job losses, and will ultimately raise fuel prices for local businesses.

Collectively, Monroe and PES employ thousands of people in our region, both directly and indirectly. A 2012 Pennsylvania Department of Labor study showed that these vital facilities have massive job multipliers. For each direct job at these facilities, there are 18.3 people that depend on them for their livelihoods in the region, 22 in the state and 61 in the nation. Their economic impact reverberates throughout the Greater Philadelphia region, the Commonwealth and well beyond.

Our regional refineries provide the essential low-cost products we use each and every day to fuel our vehicles, heat our homes and for the feedstock that manufacturers need to produce their products. We are fortunate to have these important facilities located right here in the Commonwealth because they play a vital role in our nation's security and in times of need. When recent natural disasters impacted Gulf Coast refineries, our region's refineries were called upon when our country needed resources.

The Laurel Pipeline is currently the only remaining pipeline capable of transporting fuel into the greater Pittsburgh region from Southeast PA, a Laurel reversal effectively

forecloses the ability for Philadelphia-area refiners to reach this market. This limits markets for our regional refiners and options for purchasers in Western Pennsylvania. Currently, fuel marketers have the ability to purchase the most competitively priced products – either from PA refineries or from out-of-state refineries instead. Having these options creates real competition, and that translates into savings for consumers.

The mission of the Chamber is to promote growth and opportunity in our region make our region a great place to do business, GPEAT has focused on strengthening and further developing our energy sectors. We've made considerable progress in recent years by working together with a wide range of area stakeholders towards achieving our energy hub vision.

For all of these reasons, we hope that you will agree with us that a Laurel reversal threatens this progress, and is simply not in the best interest of the Greater Philadelphia region or the Commonwealth as a whole.

Sincerely,



Rob Wonderling
President & CEO
Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia