2288 Mars Hill Road Irwin, PA 15642 724-446-7202

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www.sewickleytownship.org

## **Board of Supervisors**

Joseph Kerber Chairman

Brian Merdian Vice Chairman

Mark Petros Supervisor

Secretary-Treasurer Erika Horvat May 17, 2018

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street, Filing room Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: File Number P-2018-3001453, C-2018-3001451

Please see the enclosed signed and dated **Letter in Opposition** of the Township of Sewickley. Please contact the office at the number above with questions.

Sincerely,

Erika Horvat

Secretary/Treasurer

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Secretary-Treasurer Erika Horvat Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street, Filing Room Harrisburg, PA 17120 ZOIB MAY 21 AM II: (
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Petition of Senator Dinniman for Interim Emergency Relief; Docket No. P-2018-3001453; Senator Dinniman v. Sunoco Pipeline L.P.; Docket No. C-2018-3001451

**Dear Secretary Chiavetta:** 

I am writing to you on behalf of the Township of Sewickley in Westmoreland County in hopes that you will strongly consider rejecting all efforts and attempts to stop construction and let the work associated with the Mariner East projects resume immediately. We are a rural Township who has seen the positive results of the gas drilling industry and its associated projects similar to Mariner East 2. We have been so fortunate to receive Act 13 funds from this industry and because of this we have been able to keep our tax rates stable. Going forward and in order to continue to do just that we need revenues from projects such as the Mariner East 2 pipeline.

The Mariner East project is a once-in-a-lifetime-energy transportation system that allows for Pennsylvania natural resources (propane, ethane and butane, all known as natural gas liquids or NGLs,) from the Marcellus and Utica shale areas to be transported via new pipelines, and distributed and processed in-state at a revitalized former refinery, the Marcus Hook Industrial Complex in Delaware County.

The first phase, Mariner East 1, is operational.

The second phase, Mariner East 2, is under construction in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio and this work needs to continue without delay!

Together, these projects have created thousands of well-paying jobs during construction. They will support hundreds of permanent, family-sustaining jobs, in addition to creating new opportunities for economic development and the creation of more permanent jobs.

Estimated economic impact of Mariner East 1 and 2 and related projects: \$9.1 billion Estimated taxes generated during construction: \$122 million More than 15,000 jobs supported each year over two years of construction \$1.9 billion in construction-based earnings

Ongoing annual impact to Commonwealth of \$140 million - \$210 million annually Supporting between 300 to 400 full time equivalent jobs with estimated earnings between \$22 million - \$33 million

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Now we all have concerns for the safety and well-being of both the environment and our residents. But we have seen first-hand that between Sunoco and the DEP that safety mandates rigorous testing of all pipes, using the most advanced technologies available to analyze a pipeline's condition, and monitor its operation in real time. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, pipelines are the safest means to transport energy resources. Further delays to the restart of the Mariner East 1 pipeline poses a negative impact not just to the Pennsylvania economy, but also the safety of our communities by forcing the use of inefficient, less safe transportation options. Certified controllers closely watch the pipeline's pressure, temperature and flow, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from a control center dedicated exclusively to the safe operation. Liquids pipelines are the safest mode of transportation in the industry. Additionally we have witnessed firsthand Sunoco's willingness to step up and address site-specific issues and problems that develop on the project. There is no doubt that in addition to safety and the environment Sunoco has a deep rooted respect for the people who are 'neighbors' to this project and will go above and beyond to address their concerns and issues.

In addition to the additional revenues that the Township has been privileged to receive from this industry over the past few years it is also important to note that the propane industry in Pennsylvania distributes propane to more than 190,000 propane-heated households in every county of the state, contributing over \$1.3 billion yearly to Pennsylvania's economy. Propane is used in 48 million households nationwide. Sourcing this resource from Pennsylvania, for not just our won state but also the nation's benefit, is absolutely critical to our state. Propane is commonly used to fuel school buses, light-and medium-duty trucks, shuttles, and government vehicles. This helps save dollars in our communities. Moreover, agriculture, which is the largest industry in our Township, has many farms which use propane to run pumps and engines, heat buildings, and dry and process crops. Propane can be used for: crop moisture control and drying; space heating (barns, greenhouses, farmhouses); power generation and backup power; crop irrigation; water sanitizing stations for milking operations.

Due to all of these reasons it is now more critical than ever to make sure the construction work to complete this pipeline resumes as quickly as possible and that these unfounded delays and attempts to block this project cease immediately. We know the potential outcomes of additional delays. The market is already tight and further delays or shutdowns could have dire consequences. In a state with abundant natural resources, we should not face energy shortages. However, if delays continue, demand will only increase. Mariner East 1 recently was shut down to assess the safe operation of the pipeline, which has since been confirmed and should be restarted immediately.

In conclusion Sunoco has been a welcomed addition to our community not only with their project but also with how they have conducted their business and also by generously donating to our local fire departments. Providing energy as well as revenues to help our communities not only survive but prosper should never be something that is delayed or taken away.

Brian J. Merdian

Sewickley Township Supervisor, Vice-Chairman

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Township of Sewickley 2288 Mars Hill Road **Irwin PA 15642** 

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Rosemary Chiavetta Secretary Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street, 2nd Floor. Harrisburg PA 17120

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