



Larson Design Group*

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

JUN - 5 2017

May 25, 2017

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Honorable Patrick McDonnell
Secretary of the PA Department of Environmental Protection
320 North Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: **Williams' Transco Atlantic Sunrise Project**

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing to you representing our 300 employees of Larson Design Group, a Pennsylvania-based professional design and construction services firm with six offices located across the state.

Creating an economic environment that encourages private investment and creates and retains jobs - while balancing the health and safety of the public and the environment - should be a top priority of the Commonwealth and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP).

Pennsylvania has a tremendous opportunity to capitalize on the game-changing natural gas deposits within the Marcellus and Utica shale basins, and infrastructure is needed to move that resource to market. Pipelines are proven to be the safest and most efficient method to move natural gas to consumers, and they are tremendous economic drivers. Williams' Atlantic Sunrise is a nearly \$3 billion energy infrastructure investment that promises to put Pennsylvania energy and employees to work.

Undoubtedly, permitting and regulation play a key role protecting the health and safety of our citizens as well as the environment and wildlife. However, I also believe that in every infrastructure and economic development project, there must be a balance. After receiving Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approval in February, the company is on the verge of securing the final remaining state permits necessary to advance this multibillion-dollar investment in the state's energy infrastructure. For more than three years, Atlantic Sunrise has undergone an unprecedented amount of regulatory and public review. **The time to build is now; the time to approve Atlantic Sunrise is now.**

Williams has operated safely in the state for decades and currently touches more than 30 percent of the nation's natural gas, transporting it to markets across the country. Their track record is sound. The PA DEP holds the key to putting more than 8,000 people to work during construction and directly injecting \$1.6 billion into the state's economy. I urge the PA DEP to complete the review of all permit applications related to Atlantic Sunrise without delay.

Sincerely,
LARSON DESIGN GROUP, INC.

Keith S. Kuzio, P.E.
President and CEO

CC: Governor Tom Wolf

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Williamsport 1000 Commerce Park Drive, Suite 201, Williamsport, PA 17701

Tel (570) 323-6603 Toll Free (877) 323-6603 Fax (570) 323-9902

www.larsondesigngroup.com

Please consider the environment.