

**THE CHAMBER**  
The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce

DATE: June 13, 2017

TO: PA Department of Environmental Protection  
North-Central Regional Office  
Waterways and Wetlands Program  
208 West Third St.  
Suite 101  
Williamsport, PA 17701

FROM: Fred Gaffney, President  
Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce  
238 Market St.  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

RE: Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project

Representing approximately 500 organizations throughout Columbia and Montour counties (PA) and beyond, the Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce works to strengthen the region's economy by supporting existing employers as well as encouraging new business development.

As such, our organization has researched the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project. We have met with representatives of this project, and conducted independent research of natural gas pipeline construction and safety in general. This research indicates that modern pipeline technology provides among the safest methods of transporting natural gas. Specific to this project, Williams has demonstrated its concern for property owners and the environment with the adoption of more than 400 route modifications affecting more than 60 percent of its original route.

Following a comment period for our membership, the Chamber's Board of Directors adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's natural gas industry is a major economic driver in the Commonwealth through job creation directly related to gas extraction and transportation, lower utility costs, and revenues; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's natural gas reserves are projected to be able to serve current and future demands within the Commonwealth with significant surplus for export for decades; and

WHEREAS, the current infrastructure within Pennsylvania is insufficient for the safe and economical transportation and distribution of Pennsylvania's natural gas supply to all markets, including residences and businesses within the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, state and federal regulatory agencies proclaim modern pipelines to be the safest method of transporting natural gas;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce supports the expansion of Pennsylvania's natural gas transportation and distribution pipeline infrastructure through responsible collaboration with property owners for the benefit of the citizenry and economy of the Commonwealth.

Williams has supported dozens of community organizations and conservation projects in our area. If approved, the Atlantic Sunrise Project is expected to support 2,300 jobs and generate 1.6 billion dollars in economic activity during the construction stage. We believe this project would be beneficial to our region, and the Commonwealth as a whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in this manner.