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Thank you for this opportunity to share my support ^{for} of the Williams Transco Atlantic Sunrise project.

Often those who support a project will respond to the environmental concerns with information about economic impact and jobs. I understand this really doesn't address the concern and I will focus on why I support this project from an environmental and safety viewpoint along with other benefits.

The dramatic resurgence of the United States as an energy superpower has provided tremendous economic and environmental benefits. Even as America is leading the world in oil and natural gas production, methane emissions have fallen, thanks to industry leadership and investment in new technologies. U.S. carbon emissions from power generation are now at nearly 30-year lows due to increased use of natural gas.

Methane emissions from 1990-2015 associated with the natural gas industry **declined by 18.6 percent** while U.S. natural gas production **increased by more than 50 percent**, according to EPA and EIA data. This shows U.S. emissions of methane from the natural gas sector decreased noticeably during one of the largest increases in natural gas production in the nation's history. Furthermore, America's oil and natural gas industry continues to lead all other industries in zero and low-carbon investments. Between 2000 and 2014, the oil and natural gas industry **invested \$89.9 billion** in such investments, more than double that of the next largest private sectors.

In a dynamic, innovation-driven industry like energy, we should be careful not to adopt regulations that prevent technological improvements or shrink opportunities for investments that could deliver environmental benefits and consumer savings for years to come.

Some of the technologies that have been improved and adopted over the past several years directly benefit the pipeline industry and the environment. Engineers and environmental scientists work to define routes and methods with the least amount of impact, and then follow best practices for installation and

restoration. Safety for people working on the projects, people who will be living nearby, and the general population is always foremost in the minds of those who operate the pipelines. I've had direct experience working with Williams and they take extra precautions to protect and preserve the environment, assure safety for all, and support and respect communities where they are operating.

Although "zero impact" is always the goal, with any project there will be some impact. As our world works to become less dependent on fossil fuels, renewable energy options also have environmental impacts. Electric cars are powered by the very electric that is created in a large percentage, by natural gas. Wind turbines and solar panels are made with products created with natural gas. The harnesses and ropes that safely hold and support the rock-climber who is enjoying the beauty of our great outdoors, are made with products that include natural gas components.

In closing, I am happy to offer my support for this project. I appreciate the many opportunities and benefits it brings to my community including economic benefits from jobs, increased business, and lower energy costs, while knowing Williams will do it right! I am convinced they care.