

Many things have been and will be said tonight concerning the safety and benefits of the pipeline, some for and some against the construction. I feel it is important to not only look at the pipeline as though in a vacuum but also versus what some of the alternatives would be.

We can all be very certain that the companies that paid for the leases, rented offices, and brought in equipment to do the drilling are going to drill. These same companies have spent billions of dollars in Northeastern Pennsylvania and as everyone knows they can't make money unless they get the gas out of the ground and transported to a customer. As of April 2017 Pennsylvania has become the number 2 producer of natural gas in the United States trailing only Texas. As such, the issue of transporting this gas from the fields to end user is going to become even more critical.

There are only four ways to transport gas, pipeline which is the simplest way to transport gas in its current form, truck which requires LNG, Railroad which requires LNG, and ship which requires LNG. These methods of hauling LNG would also require pipelines to take the gas to the LNG processing plant, which by the way, no one really wants the plants in their back yard either.

UGI is currently building a \$60 million plant in Wyoming County to produce 120,000 gallons of LNG per day from 10 million cubic feet of shale natural gas. A company called RevLNG is building small portable plants to liquefy gas, about 50,000 gallons per day that can be expanded to 200,000 gallons per day in Bradford County. The Rev LNG plants are considered portable, although, semi-permanent might be a better description, and can be moved to different locations while the gas will be trucked away for use primarily in the gas fields to fuel the drilling equipment but also to Philadelphia to fuel ships and boats.

Of the ways to ship other than pipeline, ship is the safest but is also out of the question because of our geographic location, leaving truck or rail. In my opinion neither of these options is very appealing.

Shipping by rail would mean at least doubling the rail road infrastructure in place in NEPA and beyond and upgrading existing rails. Also it is recommended due to the Quebec train crash last year where 47 people were killed and 1.5 million gallons of crude were spilled, to slow trains down carrying fuel products. Of course pipelines can have their spills as well, there are about 280 spills per year but the pipelines are much easier to inspect and maintain.

The approximate number of trucks to carry the amount of gas to be moved by a pipeline would be in the tens of thousands. Let us just assume these trucks are available, do we really believe they and their drivers would be safe to be on our roads, driving past our homes, schools, playground, and bus stops. I find it more likely a repeat of when the trucking companies began hauling trash from state to state. Many of these trucks and their trailers should have never been on the road and while we may not see as many leaking now as they travel the roads, the problem still exists today.

Since Natural Gas is the feedstock for plastic manufacturing means jobs returning to the US due to low prices and ample supply. The most efficient way to get the gas these manufacturing facilities are pipelines.

Many of our citizens have not found any real job opportunities since the death of the coal and manufacturing industries in our area. Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Columbia Counties once had vibrant economies based on coal, steel, manufacturing, and timbering. When these industries collapsed so did the economies which allowed a very bad element to join our communities with their own underground economy, selling drugs and other illegal enterprises. These people prey on areas that are hit with financial turmoil as the citizens are easy targets as many look for an easy escape.

Are we in any position to do anything that would jeopardize one of our last opportunities for economic growth for our region?

