



225 State Street, Suite B
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October 7, 2022

RE: Regional Energy Access Expansion Project

We are providing these comments on the Regional Energy Access Expansion Project on behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB PA). NFIB is the nation's leading small business association, representing members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. Founded in 1943 as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, **NFIB's mission is to promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate, and grow their businesses.**

NFIB represents nearly 13,000 small and independent business owners in Pennsylvania, and around 300,000 nationally. Members of our organization represent virtually every sector in Pennsylvania's economy and reside in every corner of the Commonwealth.

NFIB research has found that energy costs are one of the top three business expenditures of small businesses. Every business—large and small—depends on services and materials that are impacted by energy prices.

The proposed regional energy access expansion project would help to control these costs by providing the necessary infrastructure to safely deliver clean, energy efficient, and cost-effective natural gas products to Pennsylvanians. Additionally, this project would provide much needed economic development to the northeast region.

Pennsylvania has not fared well in comparison to other states when it comes to attracting and retaining businesses. Despite being the 6th largest economy in the nation, Pennsylvania ranks 43rd in creating new jobs. Expanded energy infrastructure, will make Pennsylvania more attractive to start as well as maintain a business. Additionally, this project is poised to create over 6,000 new jobs which will assist in our post pandemic economic recovery. Small businesses benefit from a strong economy and lower energy costs which will both be achieved by this project.

On behalf of the small-business men and women of the NFIB we ask for your approval of the regional energy access expansion project, and we thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory B. Moreland".

Gregory B. Moreland
NFIB PA State Director