



WASHINGTON COUNTY
Chamber of Commerce

May 27, 2021

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Southeast Regional Office
Waterways and Wetlands
2 East Main Street
Norristown, PA 19401

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our support for the proposed modifications to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Sections 102 and 105 as they pertain to the Mariner East pipeline construction permits.

Our support stresses that the developer, Energy Transfer, must be able to make modifications to the project as needed based on construction realities they experience in the field. Energy infrastructure development is heavily dependent on the environment around it and to preserve all facets of environmental safety, pipeline developers should be granted modifications that ensure this safety, minimize community disruption, and allow safe completion—all of which are the basis for these proposed modifications before the DEP.

In addition, Mariner East is an important economic driver for our state. This project has already employed tens of thousands of skilled laborers and other workers in the Commonwealth. These jobs produce family-sustaining wages that are important to individual households, provide economic growth in communities, and benefit our local, regional, and state economies. Natural gas and oil contribute billions of dollars annually to the state and Mariner East will help drive this growth for decades.

Finally, Mariner East is necessary to ensure that natural gas developers and producers can provide these energy resources to consumers in a safe and efficient manner in the Greater Pittsburgh region. As you are aware, this section is the last link of the west-to-east network to be completed and households and businesses will continue to see savings in their monthly energy bills. Others in the northeastern United States could benefit as well as Mariner East has led to the repurposing of the Marcus Hook Industrial Complex, which serves as a critical processing, storage, and transport hub for natural gas developed in our state.

Mariner East is critical to the state's economic viability, but construction must be done in a manner that is the most environmentally sensitive, which the proposed modifications to the pipelines permit will accomplish. We strongly encourage the DEP approve these permit modifications without delay.

Sincerely,



Jeff M. Kotula
President