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Senate of Pennsylvania

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The Honorable Gladys Brown, Chair
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Brown,

It has come to my attention that efforts are underway to repurpose a 12-inch petroleum line for use to transport natural gas liquids in Chester and Delaware counties. I am writing on behalf of my constituents living and working in the 19th Senatorial District to strongly object to this manipulative plan by Sunoco. The repurposing of an antiquated pipeline to carry a highly volatile material under extreme pressure places entire communities at significant risk. Once again, I must express my disbelief how our Commonwealth, through the Public Utility Commission (PUC), continues to place the public in harm's way. Under no circumstances should densely populated, high consequence communities be subject to such increasingly risky maneuvers.

In addition to my opposition, I must express my concern that multiple requests for information from the PUC related to the repurposing of this pipeline have gone unanswered. Over a week ago, I inquired as to the route of the 12-inch pipeline and details related to the PUC approval process. To date, I have not received an answer from the PUC. It greatly inhibits my ability to serve the public when request for information are unanswered from a state agency and eagerly await your reply about these two basic questions.

Over the past week, new information has come to light that necessitate additional questions related to this proposal. I have been informed that Sunoco has reported to multiple municipalities that they simply require PHMSA approval to proceed with the repurposing of this 12-inch line. If this modification is a component of the active intrastate pipeline process and as PHMSA has delegated authority to the PUC, how is it appropriate to circumvent PUC oversight and regulatory authority? In addition, in the interests of public safety, has the PUC supervised necessary testing of this antiquated pipeline and, if so, what are the results of these tests. Finally, I must inquire at what date the PUC was made aware of this proposal and what public awareness and notification efforts have been conducted? I frequently hear that the lack of transparency by the PUC is a primary concern related to this project and would hope that public comment would be an integral part of any repurposing plan.

I thank you for the opportunity to strongly object to the repurposing of antiquated pipelines to carry hazardous natural gas liquids and look forward to a response regarding why my multiple requests for information have gone unanswered as well the additional questions in this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew E. Dinniman". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Andrew" written in a cursive-like font, followed by "E." and "Dinniman" in a more blocky, slightly cursive font. There is a horizontal line at the end of the signature.

Andrew E. Dinniman
State Senator – 19th District