

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Harrisburg, PA

May 8, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Commonwealth Foundation for Public Policy Alternatives, I am writing in support of Buckeye Partners' Laurel Pipeline Project.

The project is a free-market initiative that offers benefits to consumers and Pennsylvania's economy at large.

By providing access to Midwestern sources of gasoline and diesel fuel, the pipeline will increase options to buyers and potentially lower the cost of liquid fuels available in central Pennsylvania.

As we understand, the project will allow pipeline owners to more fully use an existing asset. Pipelines are a valuable part of the state's infrastructure and should be used to their optimum capacity in order to take advantage of their efficiencies as transporters of product and their considerable margins of safety over other means of transportation.

With respect to safety, the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research says it all in the title of a 2013 study: "Pipelines Are Safest for Transportation of Oil and Gas."

To quote the study, "In addition to enjoying a substantial cost advantage, pipelines result in fewer spillage incidents and personal injuries than road and rail. Americans are more likely to get struck by lightning than to be killed in a pipeline accident."

From our perspective well constructed and well operated pipelines mean increased prosperity and safety. For these reasons we recommend approval of the Laurel Pipeline Project.

Respectfully,
Gordon Tomb
Senior Fellow
Commonwealth Foundation
for Public Policy Alternatives