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## Senate of Pennsylvania

July 21, 2017

### COMMITTEES

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JUDICIARY, VICE CHAIRMAN  
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PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON  
SENTENCING  
TARGETED COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION  
AND CRIME PREVENTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

The Honorable Tom Wolf  
Office of the Governor  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

I write with grave concern as the State Senator for Uwchlan Township, Chester County. Recently we have had several incidents of well water breaching occurring as a result of Sunoco's drilling operations for the Mariner East II pipeline project. Also of concern is the apparent lack of notice to the individual well owners of the drilling time frame.

Pipelines are necessary to ensure our energy independence, but they must be installed in a responsible manner and properly supervised by the respective state and federal governments. I have advocated and sponsored a bill in the Senate to end the antiquated and divided supervision of liquid and gas pipelines in our Commonwealth. The division of responsibility between the Public Utility Commission (PUC) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is inadequate, inefficient and outdated. I believe Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) should be given oversight of all pipeline operations since those pipelines move a commodity throughout our Commonwealth. Additionally, PennDOT employs engineers on staff that can better supervise these operations.

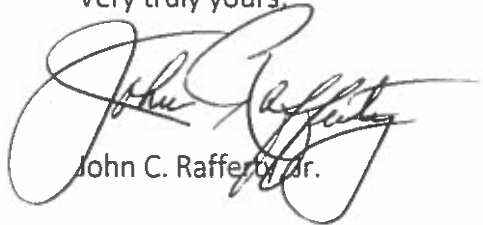
Furthermore a news article printed July 20<sup>th</sup> reported that DEP staffers warned DEP superiors of the dangers posed to private wells from pipeline construction and these warnings were allegedly ignored. I am certain that you share in my concern over this issue and I trust that you and Secretary McDonnell will investigate and hold accountable those individuals responsible.

Article I Section 27 of the Pennsylvania constitution states, "The people have a right to clean air, **pure water**, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment." Given the recent developments in Uwchlan Township I feel that drilling should be temporarily suspended

until Sunoco, DEP, PUC and others can guarantee no further private well disruption will occur. Well water portability must be guaranteed and sufficient safeguards must be in place for our residents.

Thank you. I remain,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Rafferty, Jr.", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

John C. Rafferty, Jr.

JCR/sf

Enclosure