

LEONARD LANCE
SEVENTH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

September 18, 2015

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The Honorable Bob Martin
Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State Street
Post Office Box 402
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0402

Dear Commissioner Martin:

I thank you personally for your leadership on the proposed PennEast pipeline and appreciate your Department's recent efforts in holding the project to the highest standards applicable under the law.

Many of my constituents and municipalities within my congressional district and environmental and other civic-minded organizations have expressed deep concern, and in many cases, outright opposition to the project.

I too have significant concerns about PennEast's project path and expected use of lands under farmland preservation protection and within the Delaware River watershed. These are environmentally sensitive open space areas that I have fought to protect and preserve while a member of the New Jersey Legislature and I believe it would be fiscally and environmentally irresponsible to allow taxpayer protected open space to be used in this manner.

I also express my strong reservations about the potential use of eminent domain in this situation. I have heard from many Hunterdon County, New Jersey landowners personally who fear the federal government will eventually invoke the right of eminent domain to compel the sale of easements and right-of-ways along the proposed pipeline route. I support the use of eminent domain authority only in the most limited and extreme cases that benefit public use and not private corporate entities.

Once again, I am grateful for your leadership on this issue and offer my ongoing support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leonard Lance".

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress