

On January 19, 2018, late on a Friday evening, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a "certificate of public convenience and necessity" for the construction of the PennEast Pipeline, to transport natural gas produced by Marcellus Shale fracking activities from Luzerne County, Pennsylvania to Mercer County, New Jersey. This 100+ mile pipeline would run through Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton, and Bucks counties in Pennsylvania and Hunterdon and Mercer counties in New Jersey.

On February 22, 2018, in response to opposition from and a request for a rehearing made by governmental and environmental entities, the FERC issued a "tolling order," which theoretically gives the FERC a period of several months to consider those requests but which in reality merely delays a predetermined final decision to dismiss such requests.

While PennEast still needs approvals from the Delaware River Basin Commission and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the decision by the FERC moves the PennEast Pipeline one giant step closer to reality. PennEast has met with a great amount of resistance from landowners in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey who have been approached about voluntarily signing over rights to their property, and has now initiated eminent domain proceedings against many of them.

In light of these developments, I hereby propose the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO CONTINUE ITS OPPOSITION TO THE PENNEAST PIPELINE AND SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF OUR PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW JERSEY NEIGHBORS

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors passed a Resolution opposing construction of the PennEast Pipeline through Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton, and Bucks counties in Pennsylvania and Hunterdon and Mercer counties in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the great majority of the proposed pipeline will fall within the Delaware River watershed and cross the Delaware, Susquehanna, and Lehigh rivers and thereby create a substantial threat to animal habitats, forests, wetlands, and clean water supplies; and

WHEREAS, there are already in existence sufficient gas pipelines in the same general geographical areas; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has issued a "certificate of public convenience and necessity" to Penn East in connection with the proposed pipeline and PennEast has initiated numerous eminent domain proceedings against landowners in Pennsylvania and New Jersey who have refused to voluntarily turn over their lands to PennEast;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors, that Solebury Township:

Reiterates its opposition to the PennEast Pipeline as unnecessary and as a substantial threat to our environment;

Stands in support with our Pennsylvania and New Jersey neighbors in opposing the taking of their lands by eminent domain;

Calls on the Delaware River Basin Commission to oppose the construction of the PennEast Pipeline;

Urges Governor Wolf, Senators Casey and Toomey, Congressman Fitzpatrick, and our representatives in the State House and Senate to take any and all appropriate action to oppose construction of the PennEast Pipeline.

RESOLVED and ENACTED this 3rd Day of April, 2018

Solebury Township Board of Supervisors, by:

Helen Tai, Chair

Mark Baum Baicker, Vice-Chair

Kevin Morrissey, Member

Attest:

Noel Barrett, Member

Dennis Carney, Township Manager

Robert McEwan, Member