RE: Dominion Energy Transmission Inc. West Loop Project (CP19-26)

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, the largest, broad-based business advocacy organization in the Commonwealth, I am writing in support of Dominion Energy Transmission Inc.’s application for a certificate of public convenience for the West Loop Project (CP19-26). This project will add greatly needed natural gas capacity to the state and region’s transmission network and deliver an incremental 150,000 dekatherms per day of domestically produced natural gas to markets in western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio.

It is important to note that this project will in part provide for a substantial increase in the supply of natural gas to support power generation facilities in the region. The increased use of natural gas can also assist the Ohio-Pennsylvania border region in progressing towards attainment and maintenance of federal National Ambient Air Quality Standards – which has been a challenge in past years given interstate transport issues. Improved air quality and attainment of NAAQS standards yields not just improved public health benefits, but increased economic opportunity as well, as attainment with NAAQS means a more welcoming regulatory environment for new and expanded manufacturing and investment.

Various regulators at the state, regional and national level, including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, have already determined construction of infrastructure projects such as this can occur with minimal impact to the environment. In addition, the pipeline will provide substantial economic benefits throughout the energy supply chain by supporting continued exploration and production in Pennsylvania’s rural counties; the substantial purchasing of goods and labor by the company during construction; and the availability of a reliable, low-cost, clean-burning fuel for consumers and manufacturers at the end points of delivery. The increased production and use of natural gas has been projected to deliver an additional 100,000 jobs to Pennsylvania, per the recent “Forge the Future” econometric analysis.

In closing, additional natural gas pipeline infrastructure buildout and use means a net improvement for the economy and environment. We urge the Commission to conduct a thorough and timely review of the application and relevant comments so that this project can move forward.

Sincerely,

Gene Barr
President & CEO