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VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

The Honorable Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

April 30, 2021

RE: Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company LLC 's Application for the Regional Energy Access Expansion Project (CP21-94-000)

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 Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company's application to construct the Regional Energy Access Expansion Project. This project will add greatly needed natural gas capacity to the state and region's transmission network by providing an additional 829,400 dekatherms per day of firm natural gas capacity to serve homes and businesses in the region, through the deployment of a commitment of \$950 million of private capital.

The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry supports this project as it aligns with our organization's policies on energy and infrastructure, as well as with the goals of the Bringing PA Back economy recovery initiative. Infrastructure build-out has been identified by our members as a key pillar of our state and region's successful recovery from the pandemic. We further note that local gas distribution companies in New Jersey have expressed concern with state regulators over winter availability of gas – a supply constraint that this project will alleviate.

The increased use of natural gas can also Ozone Transport Region, which includes Pennsylvania 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. Further, as researchers at Columbia University recently noted, “while it may seem counterintuitive, investing more in the domestic natural gas pipeline network could help the US reach net-zero emissions goals more quickly and cheaply. Fortifying and upgrading the system could prepare the existing infrastructure to transport zero-carbon fuels as they become available[.]”

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 but timely review of the application and, after consideration of relevant comments, issue a certificate of public convenience so that this project can move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Barr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gene" and the last name "Barr" clearly distinguishable.

Gene Barr
President & CEO