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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

April 25, 2022

RE: Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company LLC Draft Environmental Impact Statement 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 Regional Energy Access Expansion Project, which is before the Commission under docket CP21-94-000. This project will add greatly needed natural gas capacity to the state and region's transmission network, continue the significant improvement in air quality achieved in the region, support the local economy and bolster the region and nation's energy security and competitiveness. These written comments follow written testimony submitted to this project's pre-filing docket and related oral testimony delivered at FERC's scoping meeting for this matter.

This vital project, once operational, will increase natural gas capacity in the transmission network by 829,000 dekatherms per day, the equivalent to the annual demand of three million homes. The construction and operation of this project will continue to afford continued improvements in local and regional air quality thanks to the delivery and use of domestically produced natural gas. We also note that this project and its facilities will be constructed and operated in such a way as to accommodate the use and delivery of alternative fuels, including sustainably produced hydrogen and renewable natural gas.

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 in securing improvements in the Ozone Transport Region, which includes Pennsylvania. Progressing towards attainment and maintenance of federal National Ambient Air Quality Standards 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. As this country looks to recover from the pandemic and enhance resiliency of supply chains, it is vital that the region be in attainment of NAAQS so as to accommodate an expansion of manufacturing firms. Further, recent events in California and Texas demonstrate the need for a robust and reliable energy delivery system. We also note utilities serving demand in New Jersey have noted to state regulators they are in need of additional winter supply to ensure reliability, which in turn requires the additional interstate transmission capacity this project will bring.

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. To that end, the project design for the Regional Energy Access

Expansion project minimizes disturbance to surface areas and communities by maximizing the use of existing rights-of-way.

In addition, an economic impact analysis from Rutgers University shows that the project will provide substantial economic benefits directly to the region and throughout the energy supply chain. Total investment for this expansion project is estimated to be \$811.6 million, with 76.7% of that investment or \$622.6 million to occur in Pennsylvania. This project intends to spend \$320.1 million on goods and services supplied by Pennsylvania establishments. The Regional Energy Access Expansion project is also expected generate the following economic benefits: 5,654 local union jobs, \$250 million in labor compensation (income), and contribute \$8 million in Pennsylvania state taxes and \$2 million in local taxes spread throughout the project area. Altogether, this project will add \$312.8 million to the state's GDP.

Further, this project will increase the availability of a reliable, low-cost, clean-burning fuel for consumers and manufacturers at the end points of delivery. Additionally, 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. We must also note that even through the on-going energy transition there will be substantial domestic demand for natural gas, and it is vital that this demand be met by resources developed in the United States under stringent environmental standards, in lieu of imported gas from jurisdictions with less strict environmental controls and support for liberal, democratic institutions of government.

In closing, additional natural gas pipeline infrastructure buildout and use means a net improvement for the economy and environment. We thank the Commission and staff for their consideration of our organization's support for this project, and we urge the Commission to conduct a thorough but timely review of the comments regarding the draft EIS and, after consideration of relevant comments, move forward with approval for this important infrastructure project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Barr", written in a cursive style.

Gene Barr
President & CEO