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Jon A. Husted Speaker, 37th House District

May 15, 2008

The Honorable Joseph T. Kelliher Chairman Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Chairman Kelliher:

I would like to take this opportunity to voice my concerns with the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Rockies Express (REX) East project proposed by Rockies Express Pipeline LLC, specifically with respect to the pipeline's route through the state of Ohio.

ORIGI<sub>N ...</sub>

It has come to my attention that a portion of the proposed gas pipeline route would interfere with the operation of the Century Mine. The Century Mine plays a vital role in the production of Ohio's coal supply, constituting nearly one-third of all coal produced in this state. Additionally, this mine employs several hundred people and is a primary source for electric generation in Ohio and surrounding states. It is my understanding that if construction on this pipeline is permitted to move forward, coal production in our state would be affected in a dramatic and negative manner.

Although these concerns have been raised, the draft and final EIS prepared for your consideration states that "no active coal mines ... were identified in the locations crossed by the REX East project facilities." Further, I have been informed that alternate routes for other land use conflicts including Deer Creek Lake State Park in Ohio and Big Darby Creek in Ohio were considered; however, no alternative routes were considered in the case of Century Mine.

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Please know that my colleagues and I recognize the positive impact this project will have on our nation and its energy infrastructure. Therefore, we do not oppose its approval by the FERC, but rather request that you take into account the potentially damaging effect this section of pipeline could have on jobs and energy costs in Ohio. Please give this matter due consideration.

Sincerely,

on A. Husted Speaker Ohio House of Representatives

Cc: Marc Spitzer, Commissioner Jon Wellinghoff, Commissioner Philip D, Moeller, Commissioner Suedeen G. Kelly, Commissioner

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