FILEONATHAN DEVER 28TH DISTRICT

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, HOUSING, AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT CHAIRMAN

WAYS AND MEANS

JUDICIARY

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY ADVANCEMENT



Ohio General Assembly

House of Representatives Columbus

May 3, 2016

Ohio Power Siting Board 180 East Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX

To Whom It May Concern:



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I am writing today to encourage the Ohio Power Siting Board, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, and Duke Energy to amend the proposed routes of the Central Corridor Gas Pipeline Extension Project (Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX). I currently represent the 28th District in the Ohio House of Representatives and each of the proposed routes runs through residential areas within my district. After meeting with dozens of residents who would be affected by these plans, I stand by them in their concerns, hesitations, and fears.

Safety is of paramount importance. As proposed, these gas pipeline routes run through residential neighborhoods, putting our families, schools, and communities in jeopardy. This is a matter of great concern, especially given the recent gas pipeline explosion on April 29, 2016 in the greater Pittsburgh area. Even if alternative routes are more costly, safety must remain our top priority.

The concerns voiced to me by my constituents are alarming. This project, though with the best of intentions, is due to cause harm to the environment, quality of life, and could potentially result in the significant loss of life. Though public forums have been held by Duke Energy, the residents of my district remain concerned with the project and have many remaining concerns. I have attached a list of some of their questions that have yet to be answered.

Again, as the state representative for this area, I strongly encourage the Ohio Power Siting Board, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, and Duke Energy to reevaluate the Central Corridor Gas Pipeline Extension Project.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely and respectfully

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5/1/2016 - Questions for Rep. Johnathon Dever from NOPE!

Threats to Safety:

- 1. Why is this transmission line being developed through densely populated, High Consequence Areas? Just 2 days ago a natural gas explosion occurred on a 30" transmission line in Pennsylvania, and that was in a far less densely populated area than where we live. Here is the footage of that incident: https://www.yahoo.com/news/natural-gas-explosion-pennsylvania-leaves-least-1-hurt-133612515.html Had this happened in our residential area the consequences would be devastating.
- 2. What is the failure mode and rate of this type of pipeline? What estimates have the actuaries at Duke developed for loss of life and property in the event of a blowout with this pipeline along its proposed routes?
- 3. What is the blast range for the pipeline, should a failure occur?
- 4. What are the national security implications of a pipeline route that runs along multiple synagogues and a Jewish Community Center? Next to a busy shopping mall during holiday season? Adjacent to schools, daycare centers. Also security implications from home grown terrorists or extremists?
- 5. Why are we being forced to be guinea pigs on a project that is not for our benefit? Duke has never installed a pipeline this scale before. "It is the largest project of its kind", states one Duke representative. We are not asking for this. The city is not asking for this. Who says we need something of this scale?
- 6. What sort of oversight can the state provide on inspecting pipelines, and what exactly does OPSB mean by regular audits?

Pipeline Details:

- 1. Duke needs to provide us with detailed aerial maps for all 3 proposed pipeline options. These maps have been created by Duke and shared briefly in presentation format, but no one has been able to study them in detail. We need to see detailed images of the actual terrain, structures and streets that are impacted by the proposed routes. When one resident asked how to access the aerial maps, Duke Representative said they had not been uploaded to the website. This can be accomplished in a matter of minutes by uploading the presentations if they are in a sharable format, or simply taking pictures and uploading them. Why all the secrecy?
- 2. What is the capacity of the proposed of the 30" transmission line in the Central Corridor Pipeline Extension Project?
- 3. Who is paying for the pipeline? Is Duke Energy getting any support from state or federal agencies?
- 4. Where does the gas that ultimately moves through the pipeline originate? Specifically, where is it extracted? Where is it processed? What is the route from the processing facility to the station north of here? What is the route after it passes through the Central Corridor?
- 5. Is this pipeline part of a larger North/South transmission network. Where does it originate and end?

Proposed route options:

- 1. Why isn't this transmission line being developed along exiting easements or in parallel to existing gas lines?
- 2. Why isn't this pipeline being routed along a major thoroughfares, like 1-71 corridor?
- 3. Why isn't this pipeline being completely rerouted to move around our densely populated cities?
- 4. What route options were rejected for reasons of cost or timing involved?
- 5. Has Duke considered multiple smaller lines rather than this 30" transmission line?



NEIGHBORS OPPOSED TO PIPELINE EXTENSION PROJECT

Resources:

- 1. What may municipalities do to help residents with their pipeline concerns in light of the state law on noninvolvement on Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Issues? Can they mail information to residents, facilitate meetings, post notices, provide input to regulatory and decision making agencies such as PUC, FERC and OPSB?
- 2. Would Representative Dever be willing to host a joint news conference to oppose this project and inform residents?
- 3. What government resources are available to make citizens aware of a project that affects their safety and way of life. The highly secretive nature in which the project is being developed prevents this from happening.
- 4. What government resources are available to slow this project down, so affected citizens have an opportunity to become aware and involved. There has been insufficient opportunity for people to learn about a highly complex set of issues. There is very little readily available information that is in a format that is consumer friendly. Over 350,000 citizens in the following communities are being denied the opportunity to have a voice in something that concerns their safety and threatens their way of life: Blue Ash (pop. 12,106), Cincinnati (pop. 296,550), Norwood (pop. 19,086), Reading (pop. 10,348), Madeira (pop. 8,809), Kenwood (pop. 6,981) and other smaller villages/townships like Amberley, Symmes, Sycamore, Columbia.
- 5. If the pipeline goes through, and our property values decrease as a result of the pipeline, can we file suit against Duke Energy?

Process:

1. Why hasn't Duke Energy been more transparent about the other 100+ possible routes they have considered, prior to narrowing down the route options to these three? Is there a government body that has access to Duke's thought process, research and criteria?

Environmental Questions:

- 1. We need to see environmental assessments or impact studies for this pipeline. If those are not available, we would like to see them for similar pipelines.
- 2. If gas leaks from this pipeline is Duke required to repair the leak?
- 3. Why is it necessary to build this route through areas with mature trees, natural areas, vulnerable water watersheds, green spaces, wildlife habit, migration routes?
- 4. I may be forced to surrender my property to Duke Energy to facilitate fracking, a practice which I am morally opposed to, both for personal and religious reasons. Is that legal?