

The Global Energy Institute (Energy Institute) is an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system. The Energy Institute believes that construction of the Central Corridor Gas Pipeline Extension Project is in our nation's best interest, and is pleased to support the project. The United States has an abundant and diverse supply of energy. American ingenuity has been creating incredible innovations in energy technology, and these new technologies are producing cleaner, cheaper energy supplies more efficiently than anywhere else in the world. Yet, we need a more extensive energy delivery network that can make our supplies more readily available to all Americans, including those in southwestern Ohio. Great benefits result from expanding and modernizing our nation's energy delivery infrastructure system. By improving access to reliable, clean, low cost energy through projects like the Central Corridor Pipeline, jobs are created; industry and manufacturing grow; costs to consumers, hospitals, and schools are reduced; and the less fortunate in our communities are helped. It is critical for the Cincinnati region that energy is delivered in the securest and most efficient way possible, and it is well acknowledged that the safest way to move large amounts of natural gas with the least amount of risk is through pipelines. There are presently over 3.2 million miles of pipeline safely delivering natural gas and petroleum products throughout America. In fact, the U.S. natural gas pipeline network delivers natural gas supplies to 177 million households and more than five million commercial enterprises in the U.S. – over 182 million customers. According to your agency, the Ohio Public Utilities Commission (PUCO), Ohio is currently home to over 67,000 miles of natural gas pipelines that are operating safely every day. By adding the approximately 12-miles of gas distribution pipeline and modernizing Duke's infrastructure, Duke will be able to expand access to supplies of natural gas and improve reliability for all of its customers in the region. The Central Corridor Pipeline is particularly important to help ensure that there are reliable energy supplies during rare instances of supply disruptions or high demand. It is also essential toward making sure that low cost energy will be available to meet the future energy needs of the changing and growing Cincinnati region. Duke Energy has thoroughly and carefully planned this project. The route results from years of comprehensive studies. Changes were adopted to reduce risk and impacts to the environment and community. Duke is utilizing approved federal

and state regulatory procedures and is following best industry practices in developing construction and operation plans. The planning, construction, and operation of the Central Corridor Pipeline has and will continue to go through extensive scrutiny to ensure its safety and reduce risk. I am confident that the Ohio Public Siting Board and PUCO will agree that the Central Corridor Gas Pipeline is well planned, low risk, and will have minimal impact on the community. American businesses, homes, communities, and livelihoods depend on access to reliable, affordable energy. The Energy Institute supports the Central Corridor Gas Pipeline and the jobs and economic and energy security it will bring to Ohio, Kentucky, and our nation. On behalf of the Global Energy Institute, I ask that the Ohio Public Siting Board approve the Central Corridor Gas Pipeline Extension Project and allow construction to go forward as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Matthew Koch

Vice President, Global Energy Institute

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Washington, D.C.

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