



Heather C. Briccetti, Esq.
President & CEO

April 13, 2016

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Constitution Pipeline and Natural Gas Infrastructure

Dear Governor Cuomo:

The State of New York has reached a critical juncture; it is time to fulfill the state's responsibility and not obstruct the buildout of necessary energy infrastructure. Specifically, the Department of Environmental Conservation ("The Department") must complete its review and decide the merits of various water quality permits needed for the construction of the Constitution Pipeline. The Department has had more than ample time to review the permits.

The Constitution Pipeline has been engineered and designed to have minimal environmental impact. The vast majority of the temporary and permanent environmental impacts will occur in wetlands already affected by human activity. To mitigate the impact to these wetlands, the builders have proposed the development of Wetland Mitigation Areas (WMAs). The WMAs will be biologically diverse and include: forested wetlands, emergent wetlands, the restoration/enhancement of emergent wetlands, scrub-shrub wetlands, and the establishment of wetland adjacent areas.

The decision to issue the necessary permits should be based upon the merits of the permit applications and the undeniable need for the construction. Consumers throughout the Northeast, particularly our state's manufacturers, need additional natural gas capacity.

Fortunately, this past winter was mild throughout the Northeast, which kept natural gas demand relatively low. But it was only a short time ago that New York experienced one of the harshest winters on record, reminding us of how critical it is to have a robust energy supply infrastructure which meets the needs of all residents. Besides ensuring adequate supplies, modern energy infrastructure is critical to delivery energy at a reasonable and competitive price. When infrastructure cannot meet current needs, especially in time of extreme cold or hot weather, residential and commercial users feel the economic squeeze.

NY Public Service Commission chairwoman, Audrey Zibelman has acknowledged the need for additional natural gas capacity.

"We certainly think that, from the economic perspective, additional pipeline capacity into the state will be useful," NY Public Service Commission chairwoman, Audrey Zibelman, said. "Right now, the state has pipeline capacity that gives us an advantage of low-cost natural gas, and as we increase, really demand for natural gas as a resource that's necessarily going to give us an opportunity to look at investments and there are pending investments now in front of the D.E.C."

-Capital New York June 2015

As you are aware, two companies, Amphenol and Raymond Corporation, have publicly expressed the importance of access to natural gas. Numerous other manufacturers would also benefit from the completion of the Constitution Pipeline.

All residents of Sidney and the surrounding area were enthusiastic about Amphenol's decision to stay in Sidney and the beneficial impact of this decision on the more than 1,000 workers and their families. At the time Amphenol made the announcement they expected the pipeline would have been approved and delivering natural gas to the facility by now.

Raymond Corporation of Greene, New York, in December wrote to express how the Constitution Pipeline could lead to new manufacturing jobs at Raymond and its suppliers (approximately 150 jobs). Additionally, by converting heating oil to natural gas, Raymond can eliminate 42 tons of emissions per year.

The Business Council strongly urges you to support the Constitution Project, and we ask you to ensure that the timely processing of necessary state permits is achieved. This project will be good for the economy, and good for the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen C. Brucetta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small mark above the 'i' in "Brucetta".

/ds

cc: Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos, DEC
Richard Kaufman, Executive Chamber