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September 8, 2010

**TO: Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
House Consumer Affairs Committee Members- Chairman Joseph Preston, Jr.**

**RE: Testimony in support of the Natural Gas Interstate Compact Bill HB1817  
and States Rights.**

Good afternoon. My name is Louis Ottaviano. For the past 30 years I have been a resident of Chester County here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I am a Veteran, pay taxes, and vote. I believe in our political system and have great respect for those individuals who step up to serve in public office. Today, I am asking for your support to adopt HB 1817 to protect Pennsylvania's landowners.

I'd like to share with you my experience with the "Sentinel Expansion Project" (sometimes known as the Downingtown Loop FERC Docket # CP08-31-000). Since July of 2006, I have devoted hundreds of hours of my time in an effort to try to understand the process of the "Natural Gas Act", and why I would be expected to enter into a legal real estate transaction without representation by counsel, or even a licensed Pennsylvania real estate agent. As the law stands now, this was the case for me and the other 180 landowners along the Sentinel Expansion Project. We were forced to deal with the "Land Man" as he is known in the Pipeline world. Someone knocks on your door, tells you what the offer is for your property and you are expected to sign on the dotted line. If you don't, Eminent Domain will be invoked.

Over these past four years, I have been given grossly inaccurate information, harassed, threatened, deceived, and hit with the Eminent Domain suit by the Gas Pipeline Company. Because the Natural Gas Act supersedes state government, local officials were unable to provide any relief. I have spent in excess of \$80,000 in legal, engineering and appraisal fees, some of which resulted from correcting errors made by the Pipeline Company. Additionally, there is damage to my home and property of over \$100,000, which has yet to be resolved.

Since financial crisis began, we have all become painfully aware that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has enjoyed a cozy relationship with the financial industry. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has a similar relationship with the Gas & Oil Industry (Sentinel Expansion Project, Gulf oil spill). These agencies/commissions are broken and out dated and have no incentive to fix themselves, but rather leave it up to you, our state legislators to clean up their mess.

In 2009, while Congressmen Sestak and Gerlach were on my property, I made the statement that "it is not inherently wrong to expand a pipeline, but that property owners must have their individual rights protected, along with State and Local Government, as solutions are sought that will work for all parties involved."

As it stands now, you are powerless to help your constituents in this situation, but adopting HB 1817 can change that. By now taking a very positive view on HB 1817, you have the opportunity to correct a broken system for all in Pennsylvania. Please vote "yes" on HB 1817. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Louis N. Ottaviano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "O".

Louis N. Ottaviano



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**Gerlach, Sestak Unveil Legislation to Give Public Greater Say in FERC Process**  
 Responding to constituent concerns about several gas pipeline projects proposed in Chester County, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7th), left, and Congressman Jim Gerlach (PA-6th) are working to pass legislation that would create an Office of Public Advocate to give residents a voice in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission process. A second bill would require at least one public hearing in the community affected by pipeline construction projects. Gerlach and Sestak discussed their efforts during a press conference at the home of East Caln Township resident Louis Ottaviano, whose property is in the path of the Sentinel Pipeline expansion project.

[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) [11](#) [12](#) [13](#) [14](#) [15](#) [16](#) [17](#) [18](#) [19](#) [20](#) [21](#) [22](#) [23](#) [24](#) [25](#) [26](#) [27](#) [28](#) [29](#) [30](#) [31](#)

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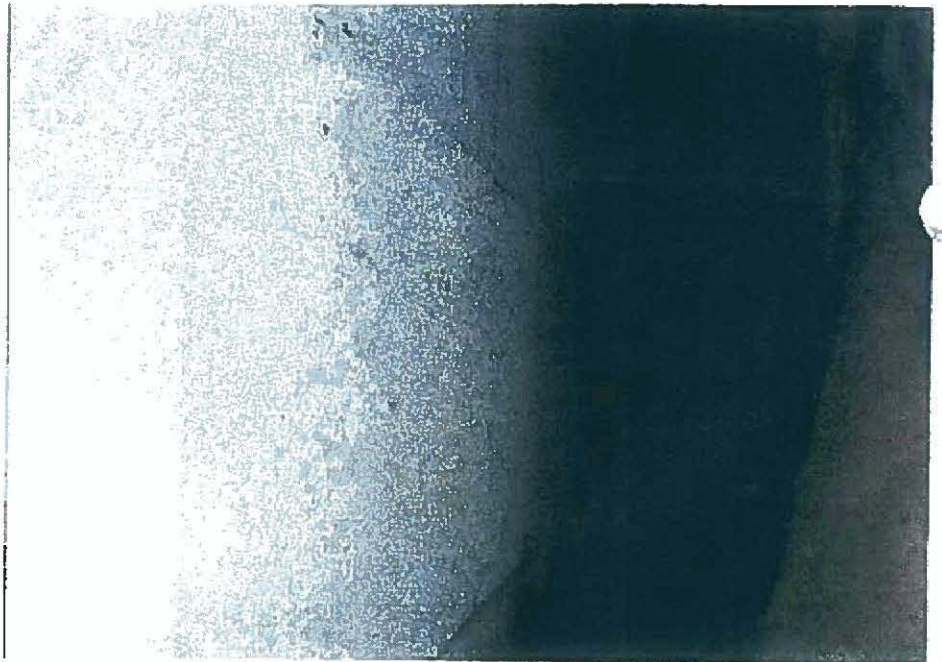
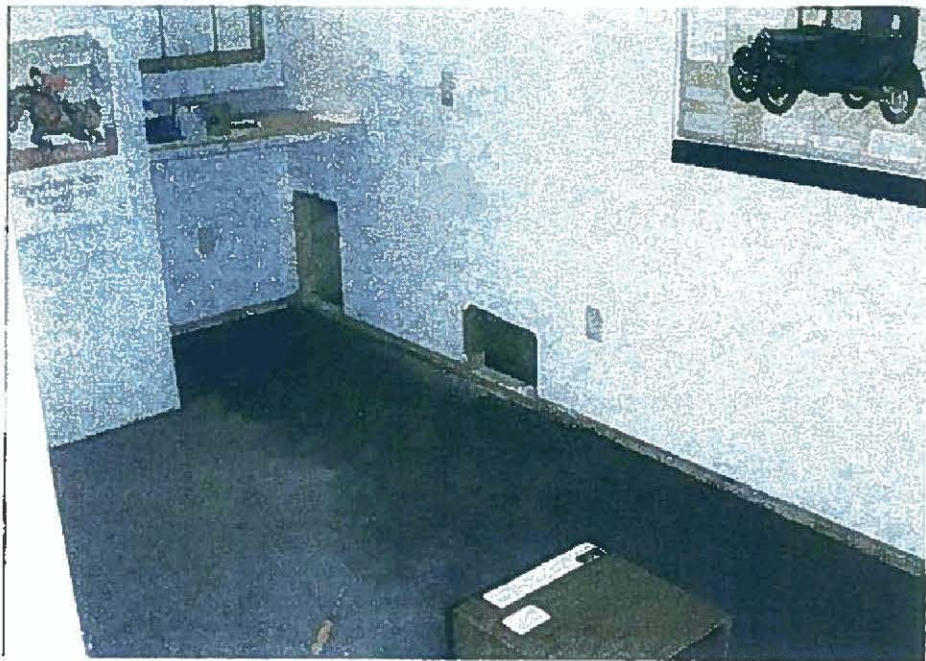


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