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**House Consumer Affairs Committee Public Hearing Testimony on House Bill 1817
September 8, 2010**

Good Afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity to provide a first-hand account of the impact of the current FERC-controlled application/review/approval system for Natural Gas pipelines in our state, and to add my voice to the growing chorus of concerned citizens and their representatives in government who demand a more informed, reasoned, and common sense approach to the placement or expansion of natural gas pipelines and associated facilities in our Commonwealth.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Dyanne Delaney. Although I've never run for elected position, like each of you I'm determined to make Pennsylvania the greatest state in the union. I've spent decades serving the public as a community volunteer and active conservationist. Rather than taking time now, I've attached an overview to my testimony.

What's most important for you to know is what happens to the Dyanne's, Joe's, Janes, Lynda's and Lou's in your own constituency when a natural gas pipeline company draws a solid or dotted line across your constituent's property for their proposed project. From the moment they open that first letter inviting them to a public meeting, an almost palpable sense of dread settles over the home. The dog and pony show that the pipeline company presents in the public meetings is full of glossy PR and marketing pieces, but typically folks leave with many more questions than answers. Frequently, as was the case for my husband and me, the company representatives give totally incorrect information. As often as not, maps are wrong.

Within just a couple of weeks of that first letter, one or more family members will be thrust into a time-intensive and frustrating unpaid position – that of researcher and fact-checker. You may be surprised to hear that in a typical 18 to 24 month project, a single affected household may log thousands (not hundreds!) of hours in that capacity alone. Add to that, hundreds of phone calls, countless meetings with other homeowners, townships, county, state and federal officials, hearings with the FERC and pipeline representatives whose comments can range from officious, callous and erroneous to outright insulting and even threatening. The pressure and frustration impacts jobs, sleep, health, and marriages.

Piles of documents begin to overtake several rooms in the home. Night oil is burned trying to find answers on the internet. Countless letters to FERC are written, and the FERC e-Library becomes the most accessed URL on the computer. And, at some point during all this madness, comes a standard-looking letter from FERC with a vitally important direction buried on one of the many pages... "How to become an intervenor." Most won't have a clue until much much too late what the term means in this case, nor how important it was to become an intervenor!

Despite concerted efforts by several FERC representatives to be responsive and helpful to affected citizen homeowners, the task is simply too great. Why? FERC representatives do not know what local officials and involved citizens know about the specifics of the area represented on maps being presented for approval. FERC doesn't have time or staff to cull this vital information from those who know it at first hand. And, as you might imagine, the Pipeline Company benefits by keeping FERC in the dark. FERC is stretched so thin they don't even have time to enforce their own project requirements. A quick look through my postings on the FERC website regarding the Sentinel Project, will show an instance where I had to request that FERC acquire and post 5 months worth of monthly project reports that Williams Transco had not provided. These project reports, by the way, are the primary means of FERC, government representatives and the community at large of being informed of the progress or revisions to the proposed project.

The folks who have come before you are a smattering of the hundreds involved just in the Downingtown portion of the Williams-Transco Sentinel project. You have an opportunity to help alleviate some of the nightmare that descends when a pipeline project is planned. Please lend your vocal support not only in passing HR bill 1817 in the House, but also in helping rally support and approval with your counterparts in the Senate. Without doubt, doing so will help assure more balanced and reasoned planning for pipelines running across our borders, and alleviate the anguish they can cause your constituents.

Dyanne Delaney: Background

With broad experience in marketing and management, public relations, fund-raising and financial development, Dyanne Delaney is a collaborative problem-solver with a positive and vivacious spirit and engaging communication style.

Smart, creative and innovative, Dyanne has the ability to research, validate, analyze and synthesize information and its relevance. She crafts effective solutions with few resources and little time. Recognized for her special event, development and marketing skills, Drexel University asked her to develop and teach courses on special events. She has also taught classes on presentation skills at Immaculata University. As leader of Joseph's People - Downingtown, she leads 2 to 3-hour biweekly sessions on networking, interview skills and career transition. Regardless of the forum or audience, she is an engaging, passionate and articulate speaker who easily conveys the message and mission.

Unafraid of hard work, her sincerity, integrity and generosity earn trust and confidence. Dyanne's ability to manage time and deadlines while prioritizing multiple projects provides excellent results. In a 1996 County of Chester Citation, she was honored, in part, for "tireless commitment to community service... whose spirit, enthusiasm and ability to get the job done has earned her the reputation as a can do person who has tackled many challenging activities...has volunteered countless hours of time in service to the community... it is thanks to citizens such as Dyanne Delaney – people who are willing to take an active role in the community – that Chester County is the warm, friendly and successful community that it is today, and will be tomorrow."

Dyanne has served on several Boards including 15 years with Joseph's People Limited overseeing ten chapters; 14 years on the Downingtown Library Board where her public relations and grant-writing skills helped raise funds to double the public space; and 13 years on East Caln Township's Zoning Board serving the last 5 as Chairperson.

She has participated in the strategic plans for the Downingtown Area School District; strategic and comprehensive plans for East Caln Township; trained and certified as an Ombudsman for the Aging, serving Assisted Living and Alzheimers residents in Chester County. She served on the Environmental, Open Space & Recreation Task Force for East Caln, and helped organize and participate in a clean-up of both branches of the Brandywine in recent years. Her efforts to raise awareness of the impact of streambank erosion and raise over \$200,000 to renovate damage to Ludwig's Run led to the Christina Basin 2008 Clean Water Partnership award.

Born naturalists and conservationists, Dyanne and husband Joseph (who constructed and cared for the blue bird boxes for ten years) know and cherish every inch of Marsh Creek State Park, its lake and shores, forests, trails and fields. Both have studied and continue to research the history of Milford Mills and the Marsh Creek Valley in which the state park is situated. Currently, Dyanne is creating a non-profit entity in the hope of realizing a 20 year dream of saving one of the last standing buildings of the Milford Mills community to repurpose it as a Nature and Environmental Education Center.

Dyanne can be reached at 610.269.9277 or DyanneDelaney@verizon.net to provide any additional information.