



Joseph Preston Jr., Chairman  
Consumer Affairs Committee  
Irvis Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA

September 7, 2010

RE: HB1817,-Schroder, Natural Gas Interstate Compact

Mr. Preston

The Green Valleys Association of Southeastern PA wishes to express its support of HB1817 which would permit the creation of an interstate compact commission to govern the siting of interstate natural gas distribution pipelines among the member states.

The importance of understanding the investment made by State, County and Local governments as well as non-profit organizations in protecting and preserving its most significant natural, cultural and historic resources cannot be overstated. The years dedicated in these endeavors are absolutely stunning and incredible as many have dedicated their lives to these resources so that the coming generations may have some of the quality of life that they themselves have enjoyed. The current process of siting interstate natural gas pipelines is disconnected and ineffective.

With Chester County having a major distribution hub and with the natural gas industry in its early years of harvesting the Marcellus Shale gas deposits it would only be prudent to have a better understand and consideration of how State, County and Local planning efforts should co-exist with pipeline projects.

It is our feeling that local pro-active planning such as the county's "Landscapes", "Watersheds" and areas that have gone into special protections as the Hopewell Big Woods and the Special Protection Groundwater Area do not get the weight they deserve when making pipeline decisions. Individual property owners are overwhelmed and experience total helplessness in having their concerns heard and respectfully considered in these matters. By approving legislation as proposed in HB 1817, there will be a place at the table to voice the needs and concerns of local



communities. This will help to bring a better balance to the decision making process as to where it is best to site these interstate lines.

Since 1964, Green Valleys Association has pro-actively worked with all agencies to better enhance and protect our local resources, which they rightfully deserve and which the citizens are afforded under the state's constitution.

We feel that the formation of a compact as proposed in HB 1817 will greatly complement the current process and in the end enhance the industry's effort of bringing clean, affordable energy to the communities at large.

Thank for this opportunity to comment on this important bill.

John Hoekstra  
Director of Watershed Advocacy  
Green Valleys Association of Southeastern, PA