



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local Union No. 96

242 MILL STREET • WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01602

TELEPHONE: (508) 753-8635

August 13, 2017

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6175

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6175

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

For over 100 years, IBEW Local 96 has provided electrical services across Worcester County. Our 350 members ensure the lights are on in the businesses and residences in our region.

Natural gas plays a critical role in meeting our region's energy needs. It is clear that New England currently lacks the adequate pipeline capacity to meet growing demand and keep costs low for energy consumers.

The expansion of our region's pipeline infrastructure has come to a standstill despite such persistent energy challenges. Recently, the state of New York has blocked pipeline development. Our region already pays some of the highest electricity and home heating prices in the nation. Without commonsense reform and willing regional partners, this situation will threaten the wallets of consumers in our region and the livelihood of our members.

We simply cannot afford unnecessary regulatory barriers which prevent the modernization of our natural gas infrastructure. Clarifying existing law regarding the appropriate scope and review of regional pipeline projects and removing regulatory abuses under the clean water certification process is a critical step forward.

Addressing pipeline obstruction in the northeast is long overdue. Not only is it commonsense governance, it has the potential to unleash economic savings and improve the fuel security of our region as well.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Maloney
Business Manager

www.ibewlocal96.org

