



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER

COMMISSIONERS

Michelle Kichline
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS

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August 19, 2019

Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

We write to thank you for taking the time to visit Chester County recently to see firsthand our beautiful and thriving West Chester downtown district – which of course also happens to be the County Seat.

As Commissioners, we have invested more than \$4.3 million into West Chester Borough's revitalization and infrastructure over the past 17 years, and we are very proud of all that this investment has helped to achieve. We are a major funding source for the Chester County Historical Society, giving \$125,000 annually, and we partner with the Society to administer our Archives & Records Department. We also supported the creation and development of the Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center with \$50,000 in capital funding. Additionally, Chairman Kichline serves as a board member of the Chester County Historical Society, the Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center and the West Chester Business Improvement District.

Given all of our commitment to, and investment in West Chester, imagine our disappointment and frustration in learning of your recent visit only after you had come and gone – with no notice or opportunity to meet with you to showcase the efforts of County government noted above.

Had we been given the chance to meet with you during your visit, we must admit that we would have taken that opportunity to raise another topic of great importance in Chester County – Mariner East. As you know, Chester County is one of many high-density communities adversely affected by the Mariner East pipeline project. We continue to experience major issues in our communities related to the Mariner East project – even as recently as Monday, August 5th when an explosion was reported by multiple residents in West Goshen, ultimately determined to have originated from Sunoco LP's Boot Road Station. Counties like ours that are situated along the pipeline have been left to bear the brunt of the impact of this project on our own, at great expense and with limited authority to substantially deviate from state-governed rules and regulations.

You may be aware of our most recent actions as County Commissioners regarding pipeline safety issues, but if not, let us share with you how we have led the way in coordinating a comprehensive effort to prepare, prevent and respond to any possible pipeline incidents in and around Chester County. The list of our actions is extensive, so we have attached a separate document detailing all of these efforts for you to

review. But even with all of our actions, we know that the state wields great control regarding siting, permitting and authority over many aspects of the Mariner East project.

We respectfully ask that you give us the opportunity to present our current actions and some new areas of focus regarding Mariner East in person, and would sincerely welcome a discussion regarding any intentions you may have of issuing a moratorium on pipeline operation and construction until plans are in place that will help us better protect our citizens. We understand through media reports that you plan to return to Chester County soon to “inspect Sunoco Mariner East pipeline construction” and would welcome an opportunity at that time to meet with you. Your staff can contact Taylor Pettit at 610-344-6026 or tpettit@chesco.org to setup our meeting.

We thank you in advance for giving us the opportunity to meet with you during your next visit to Chester County and we look forward to working together on this extremely important and immediate issue.

Sincerely,



Michelle Kichline
Chair, Board of Commissioners



Kathi Cozzone
County Commissioner



Terence Farrell
County Commissioner