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## Senate of Pennsylvania

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March 5, 2025

Acting Administrator Ben Kochman  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Sunoco Twin Oak-Newark Pipeline in Upper Makefield Township

Dear Acting Administrator Kochman,

I'm writing in support of the February 8 letter sent by state Senator Steven Santarsiero and state Rep. Perry Warren requesting an immediate suspension of the flow of all petroleum products in the Sunoco Twin Oak-Newark Pipeline.

Without rehashing the details of that letter, I share the concerns expressed by Senator Santarsiero, Rep. Warren, residents, and local officials in Upper Makefield township and the surrounding area.

As a legislator representing the neighboring Chester County district in the pathway of the same pipeline, I am very concerned that my communities and constituents may be at risk of experiencing a leak similar to the one in Upper Makefield. Remember, this leak occurred, undetected by Sunoco/Energy Transfer for at least sixteen months and its potentially widespread impacts and causes have yet to be fully determined.

Furthermore, through communication with PHMSA and organizers from Food and Water Watch, I've learned that the Type-A sleeve repairs associated with the site of the leak in Upper Makefield have been installed on at least 44 locations along the more than 100-mile pipeline route.

Given the extensive problems communities in Chester County and across the Commonwealth faced in the past related to Sunoco/Energy Transfer's construction of the Mariner East Pipeline, I am compelled to stand with Senator Santarsiero and Rep. Warren in calling for the suspension of this pipeline. Stopping the flow of materials in the pipeline while we fully identify and repair the root causes of the leaks is the right and prudent thing to do for Pennsylvania communities that have already been negatively impacted and others that could face future impacts. As the old adage says, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

In addition, I am further alarmed by the lack of communication and transparency from Sunoco/Energy Transfer regarding its investigation into the leaks. The fact that on February 2 the company resumed the flow of jet fuel through the pipeline without sharing the results of that investigation or a comprehensive analysis of the integrity of the rest of the pipeline sections and without communication to the local municipalities, or any of the impacted residents, is unacceptable. Unfortunately, it is also indicative of many of the underlying challenges communities face when dealing with pipeline operators, like Sunoco/Energy Transfer.

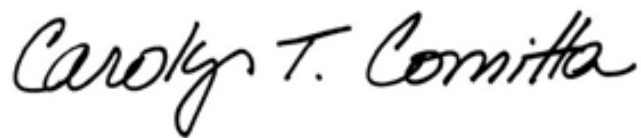
While we rely on pipelines as an important part of our energy system, protecting our access to clean air, water, and land is critical to environmental health, economic health, and public health and safety. Furthermore, all Pennsylvanians share a Constitutionally protected right to “clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment” under Article 1, Section 27 of our state constitution.

I respectfully ask that you consider halting the flow of all petroleum products in the Sunoco Twin Oak-Newark Pipeline until a full investigation and analysis, beginning with the source of and repairs to and remediation of the problems in Upper Makefield and extending across potentially problematic sites on the full length of the nearly 60-year-old pipeline, is completed and shared with the public.

My constituents deserve to know what is happening with pipeline operations in their communities. We all deserve to know that our water is clean, that our homes are safe, and that our government agencies will stand up for us when we need them. And we deserve pipeline operators that are communicative, accountable, and neighborly to the communities they traverse.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn T. Comitta". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carolyn" and last name "Comitta" being more prominent than the middle initial "T.".

Carolyn Comitta  
State Senator – 19<sup>th</sup> District

CC: Senator Steve Santarsiero  
Rep. Perry Warren