

Ray Bukowski, Acting Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State Street
7th Floor, East Wing
P.O. Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402
By email: ray.bukowski@dep.nj.gov

Re: PennEast Pipeline Early Tree Clearing

Dear Commissioner Bukowski:

In 2016, Federal Marshals armed with automatic rifles enforced the federal order for early tree cutting for the Constitution Pipeline at the Holleran Maple Tree Grove in New Milford, PA. The maple trees were the source of Holleran Family income for generations, but they were cut down for a pipeline that was never built. New York DEC denied the permits.

Pursuant to FERC's issuance of a conditional Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity on January 19 to PennEast, the company is expected to request permission to begin tree cutting *before all permits are obtained*. Such early tree cutting will risk extensive environmental and economic damage for a pipeline that may require route changes or never be built. I urge you to oppose any order issued by FERC allowing non-mechanized tree clearing in advance of construction and to instruct the Attorney General to challenge any order at FERC.

The communities impacted by the proposed PennEast pipeline have entered a time of extreme duress as our landowners now face the immediate hardship of eminent domain, and the federal government moves to supersede the determination of New Jersey's citizens and taxpayers to entrust our public lands and environmental resources. We are relying on the Department to keep our distress and concerns foremost in your awareness as we enter this difficult time, and to hold PennEast accountable to the highest standards of the rules which protect New Jersey.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____