

Patrick McDonnell
Secretary, Dept. of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101
By email: pmcdonnell@pa.gov

RE: Early Tree Cutting of the PennEast Pipeline Route

Dear Secretary McDonnell:

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, we expect PennEast to seek an order to cut trees along the route *before all permits are received*. The FERC will undoubtedly grant tree cutting permission even though the pipeline route may be changed. FERC *may* require state approval before tree cutting can begin.

I urge PADEP to do everything in its power to stop early tree cutting including denying any approval for such activity, using regulations and outstanding permits to stop tree cutting, and requesting the State Attorney General to intervene. Pennsylvania should not be a sacrifice zone for unnecessary pipelines.

As Pennsylvanians, we depend on the PADEP to protect us from the destruction of our environment. Can you imagine the outcry if our State Parks, our State Forests, and private properties are subjected to tree cutting for another pipeline that may never be built?

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Date: _____