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2ND DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SENIOR DEMOCRATIC WHIP

**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

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July 29, 2015

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Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Room A1
Washington, D. C. 20426

Re: Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L. L. C. Docket No. PF14-22-000 Northeast Energy Direct Project

Dear Secretary Bose:

I want to thank the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for holding this scoping meeting to request comments on environmental issues regarding the Planned Northeast Energy Direct Project (NED). I regret that the House of Representatives is in session and I am prevented from attending this scoping meeting in person. However, I appreciate FERC's willingness to accept my comments in written form.

I have heard from countless constituents about their desire to extend the deadline for public scoping comments beyond August 31, 2015 in order to ensure that all available information is considered. In addition, the extension will allow for greater exploration of alternatives to this project, which will allow for the most comprehensive review possible. I applaud the efforts of Massachusetts State Attorney General Maura Healy who has recently undertaken a comprehensive study of the electric reliability needs in the New England region through 2030. Attorney General Healy's office has stated that the report is expected to be completed in October 2015. This report will provide important information that deserves consideration with regard to the entirety of the NED Project.

As currently proposed, the NED project crosses miles of pristine land that has been protected by state and federal dollars. It is my strong belief that if land has been protected from development in perpetuity by public dollars, it should be protected from the construction of a pipeline which would run directly through it.

It is critically important to me that this federally regulated process is conducted in an open and transparent way. I will continue to advocate on behalf of my constituents of the 2nd Congressional District in order to ensure that concerns are heard loud and clear. I will submit a more detailed scoping comment for the record prior to the August 31, 2015 deadline.

Sincerely,



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress