

RESOLUTION 001-2019  
of the Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee

**Mariner East Operations: Safety Comes First**

WHEREAS protecting the health, safety, and economic security of Pennsylvania's citizens, especially children, senior citizens and the disabled, is of the highest importance;

WHEREAS no Pennsylvanian should have to live in fear for the destruction of life, property, or community as a result of infrastructure projects, requiring that government evaluate and mitigate risks acceptably.

WHEREAS safety issues associated with the current and proposed Mariner East pipeline system present a potential threat spanning seventeen counties, including schools, senior living facilities, residential subdivisions, businesses, emergency responders, pipeline-related workers, and local economies;

WHEREAS the permitted Mariner Two pipeline has had multiple serious incidents resulting in fines for the owners, whose record is one of inadequate vigilance towards the safety of residents and its own workers;

WHEREAS safeguarding lives in the event of disaster is of the highest importance, yet some local governments do not have credible leak detection and notification response systems;

WHEREAS numerous Democratic legislators from affected areas have called for pipeline operations to cease pending a reevaluation of their potential risks, overall safety, and local disaster response planning; and

WHEREAS the Commonwealth's responses thus far have not adequately addressed these concerns;

NOW, we, the PENNSYLVANIA DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE, are RESOLVED that:

- **We believe** that all counties, municipalities, and school districts currently under threat from these pipelines need credible leak detection and notification systems – as well as county-wide disaster response plans with plausible evacuation instructions. We respectfully urge regulatory authorities and the General Assembly to swiftly take action in order to ensure the development of these systems.
- **We believe** localities should not have to pay for the costs associated with building and enacting such safety measures. Those costs should be borne entirely by the pipeline operator.
- **We call** on the PA Public Utility Commission (PUC) to study the projected lifespan of the older pipelines and require operators to safeguard accordingly, as its experts have already recommended.
- **We call** on the PUC and Department of Environmental Protection to enforce state and federal rules which protect people and the environment.
- **We believe** that the Commonwealth should permit the finished Mariner East pipelines to function *only* after it certifies that all of the above conditions have been met.
- **We reaffirm** our support for Pennsylvania's union members whose jobs depend on the safe construction and operation of these pipelines. We believe that the cause of safety is advanced when these jobs go to Pennsylvanians, who are vested in the safety and prosperity of their communities.



Brett Burman, Delaware County  
State Committee Member



Melissa Carden, Delaware County  
State Committee Member

*Adopted by the duly assembled State Committee on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019*