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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and  
Land Forces

Subcommittee on Readiness

**HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**

Subcommittee on Conservation  
and Forestry

Subcommittee on Biotechnology,  
Horticulture, and Research

**HOUSE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy  
and Trade

Subcommittee on Contracting and  
Workforce

September 28, 2015

David F. Fleming, Jr., Supervisor  
Town of Nassau  
P.O. Box 587  
Nassau, New York 12123

Dear Supervisor Fleming:

Thank you for contacting me concerning my position on the proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED) Pipeline proposal that is before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). I applaud your efforts and advocacy on behalf of our mutual constituents in Nassau, your stalwart leadership is commendable.

I support expanding access to a broad range of energy resources, including the modernization and improvement of infrastructure to move these resources. Expanded access will lower energy costs for my constituents, create jobs, and improve our energy security. However, I have significant concerns with this proposed project for a variety of reasons and, therefore, I do not support the proposal in its current form.

Based on my many conversations with concerned residents across the 19<sup>th</sup> District, my reservations focus on public safety and potential environmental and economic impacts. It's vital that we make improvements to our infrastructure with tremendous care and maximum input from local residents. Unfortunately, Kinder Morgan has not provided adequate information about its plans. Neighbors of this pipeline have many questions, and those questions should be answered by the applicant in a public forum.

It is important that the process by which this proposal moves forward is transparent and proves the safety of the project. In addition, there should be substantial risk mitigation planning and the process should engage and be responsive to local concerns. The project should also provide significant local benefit, especially given potential financial burdens from decreased property value. Our community should not bear the burden of the project, take on all the risk, and not benefit from the construction and placement of the pipeline. Furthermore, with several other projects recently approved or close to approval, it is important that we not over-develop, which could increase risk and significantly decrease any offsetting economic benefits to local communities.

I concur with your concerns and also believe that the industrial compressor station, if the proposal is approved, should not be located in a residential area. I have explained to FERC, that just because

Nassau is a rural area the lives of its residents do not matter any less than those in a more densely populated area.

I believe it is important that, as an elected representative, I listen to all of my constituencies and advocate for what is best for our communities. The current proposal will not provide a long term benefit to these communities and I will continue my advocacy to ensure our communities and constituents have a seat at the table.

It's an honor serving with you, and you have been a reliable advocate for those who have elected you as their representative. I want you to know that I am listening, and doing everything within my authority to ensure that all of our concerns are addressed and my opposition to this current proposal has been made clear to FERC and my constituents.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,



Chris Gibson  
Member of Congress

CPG/rh