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September 29, 2017

Abby Foster
Community Affairs Representative
Transource Energy
PO Box 573
Harrisburg, PA 17108-0573

PO Box 192
White Hall, MD 21161-0192

RE: Pennsylvania Portion Transource Independence Energy Connection Project

Dear Ms. Foster:

As a matter of background, the mission of the Franklin County Area Development Corporation (FCADC) is to formulate, implement and promote a comprehensive countywide economic development strategy that results in economic diversification, planned growth and family sustainable job creation. Diversification is essential to a strong economy and two of our strongest industry sectors are tourism and agriculture. To that point, Franklin County tourism generates \$326.7 million in traveler spending annually, while our agricultural sector, which ranks second among the Commonwealth's 67 counties in the production of milk, cattle, peaches, apples and corn for silage, is a \$413 Million industry.


The proposed Transource Independence Energy Connection Project is raising considerable concerns given that it would negatively impact view shed and agriculture. The proposed chain of metal, high-voltage power line towers is distinctly uninviting and counter to what attracts visitors to the beauty of the county. In addition, and arguably more important, there is documented evidence that proximity to power lines is harmful to milk production. Regardless of what route is taken, it will impact production agriculture.

While agriculture and tourism are two industry sectors that will be negatively impacted by the proposed line, our office has received calls from other businesses ranging from manufacturing and transportation & logistics objecting to the project, several of the businesses are concerned that the placement of the towers will impact future expansions.

The specific cost in a present-day action for Transource to develop the electric transmission line project is identified as a \$320 million investment, per the June 2017 Fact Sheet of the

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Transource Independence Energy Connection Project. Unfortunately, the investment does not have any immediate direct benefits to Franklin County residents or businesses. The benefits are intended to primarily benefit the Washington, DC metro area. In doing so, the long-term and far-reaching impacts on the project in Franklin County will curtail future expansion of existing businesses, negatively impact dairy production, and forever change the scenic landscape and view sheds of Franklin County. For those reasons, the FCADC is not supportive of this project.

Sincerely,

L. Michael Ross
President

C: FCADC Board of Directors
Franklin County Visitors Bureau, Inc.
Congressman Bill Shuster, 9th District
Senator Rich Alloway, 33rd District
Senator John Eichelberger, 30th District
Representative Rob Kauffman, 89th District
Representative Paul Schemel, 90th District
Representative Jesse Topper, 78th District