



## **DOWNTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

540 Trestle Place, Downingtown, PA 19335, phone 610.269.8460, fax 855.329.3273, [www.dasd.org](http://www.dasd.org)

EMILIE M. LONARDI, Ph.D. SUPERINTENDENT

July 16, 2018

The Honorable Tom Wolf  
Office of the Governor  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

For the second time in four months, I write to request your assistance regarding a major public safety risk and one that will potentially affect approximately 5,300 students in the Downingtown Area School District. My first letter was in regard to the Mariner II East pipeline and the lack of an independent risk assessment plan and recommendations to ensure school safety. That concern has since escalated with the news that Sunoco plans to repurpose an existing 12-inch, decades-old pipeline to carry Natural Gas Liquids (NGLs). This is an even larger safety threat to this school district as the existing pipe runs very near five (5) of our Downingtown school buildings.

While I have received no communication on this new plan or how to keep the children in our schools safe, I have received multiple communications from parents expressing serious concern for their children as the product is scheduled to begin transport by August 21. The lack of communication and transparency regarding the imminent danger should a leak occur and the complete lack of emergency preparedness plans and mitigation information for this unprecedented risk in a high consequence area, both contribute to the vulnerability of our community and most importantly for me as the school leader, of our students.

As Governor, you have the authority to direct the PUC to determine if this route is in compliance with their mandate to provide safe and reliable services to the community, as well as, direct any state agency to conduct studies and create mitigation plans. Sunoco is about to transport NGLs and reverse the flow of an old pipeline not constructed to carry these chemicals. I urge you to exercise your authority in this unprecedented hazardous situation. Please disallow any further progress on this alternate plan until a comprehensive and complete emergency response plan has been developed and practiced at the school district level, so we can confidently assure parents that we are able to protect their children in the event of a leak or explosion.

Once again, I respectfully ask that you act expeditiously on this request.

Sincerely,

*DOWNTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT*

Emilie M. Lonardi, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

CC:   DASD Board of School Directors  
      Senator Bob Casey  
      Senator Andrew E. Dinniman  
      Senator John C. Rafferty, Jr.  
      Senator Patrick Toomey  
      Representative Harry Lewis, Jr.  
      Representative Eric Roe  
      Representative Becky Corbin  
      Representative Duane D. Milne  
      Representative Tim Hennessey  
      Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary PA PUC