



**EXCELLENCE  
TODAY  
FOR TOMORROW**

**Rose Tree Media School District**  
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Media, Pennsylvania 19063-2493  
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*James M. Wigo, Sr.  
Superintendent of Schools*

Rosemary Chiavetta  
Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

**Re: *Pennsylvania State Senator Andrew E. Dinniman v. Sunoco Pipeline L.P.*;  
Docket Nos. P-2018-3001453 and C-2018-3001451**

Dear Ms. Chaivetta:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Rose Tree Media School District Board of School Directors. From the beginning of this Sunoco Pipeline L.P. project, the Rose Tree Media School District Board of School Directors has expressed concerns about the product, the method of transmission as well as the proximity of the pipeline to the 500 staff members and students of the Glenwood Elementary School. By all accounts, it certainly appears that our concerns were and still are warranted. Our community continues to experience serious economic impact and unsatisfied safety concerns with regard to Sunoco's Mariner East pipelines (Mariner East 1, Mariner East 2, and Mariner East 2X). Within our District's boundaries, it is well documented that residents have experienced multiple spills of drilling fluid. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has repeatedly cited Sunoco to little obvious effect. Most recently, while digging to repair a waterline, there was a strike of the pipeline by Aqua construction machinery. While the pipeline in question is not yet in service, the circumstances surrounding the strike have caused a heightened sense of concern and fear. Daily, we face a real concern that the clean water necessary to operate our schools and facilities will be compromised by Sunoco's construction operations (a possibility that is detailed in Sunoco's own documents).

A particular safety concern is the location of an above-ground, industrial valve station located approximately 800 feet from our school and visible from the school playground. Given the lack of security to protect against vandalism as well as the relatively high risk of a no-fault valve failure leading to an undetected leak and the subsequent consequences, we are very concerned that construction was planned and completed with blind expediency. Sunoco ignored our requests to change the location of the valve station away from the elementary school. Now complete, we believe that the valve station places the staff and students in harm's way. The usual school emergency response plan consists of only 2 options....either shelter in-place or evacuate and seek to get the children and staff a safe distance from the crisis. In the event of this type of pipeline leak, neither option seems to be appropriate.

*Dedicated to Excellence*

As I stated in my testimony before a joint House/Senate committee hearing in November 2016, I do not have answers to the questions as to what our district should do in the event of continued leaks of colorless, odorless, heavier-than-air flammable gas. Though asked many times, those questions remain unanswered by Sunoco. Our District is a high consequence area of dense, vulnerable populations (including schools, homes and businesses) in close proximity to the current and proposed Mariner East pipelines. Again, although requested, no one in our District has been provided with a credible notification and/or evacuation plan in the event of a Sunoco pipeline leak.

In the event of a leak or explosion from the Mariner East pipelines, students and faculty of our District may face catastrophic impacts such as injury and death. I have attached to this letter the formal resolution that delineates many of these concerns. The resolution was passed in November 2016, by the Rose Tree Media School District Board of School Directors and please note that we sent copies of this resolution to Sunoco Pipeline L.P., the Public Utility Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection as well as to Governor Wolf. All of this said, there is nothing more frustrating than the fact that we do not have the benefit of the information that would be provided by a comprehensive quantitative risk assessment. Fear in this community has been exacerbated by everyone knowing that a danger exists but not knowing the degree to which everyone is in danger.

As discussed in a recent article in the Philadelphia Inquirer, the totality of this operation is having a negative economic impact on home values within our district and disproportionately so in the catchment area of the Glenwood Elementary School that is closest to the proposed pipeline route. Data supplied by local real estate agencies has supported the anticipated negative effect on local property values. We anticipate that the diminution of home and business values inevitably will have a serious and permanent impact on the tax base of our district.

Because of these negative economic impacts and serious safety concerns, we respectfully request that you uphold Judge Barnes's Emergency Order halting the operation of Mariner East 1, as well as further construction of Mariner East 2 and 2X in the Rose Tree Media School District.

Please support us as we strive to live by our motto and keep our "children first, whatever it takes."

Sincerely,

James M. Wigo, Sr.  
Superintendent of Schools

Rose Tree Media School District  
DELAWARE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-2017 55

A RESOLUTION of the Rose Tree Media School District Board of School Directors, Delaware County, expressing great concern to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), the Commissioners of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Delaware County Council regarding proposed high pressure hazardous liquids pipeline projects that have the potential to dramatically increase the risk of catastrophic accidents, and jeopardize the health, safety, and welfare of Rose Tree Media School District students and staff. The Rose Tree Media School District Board of School Directors seeks to intervene in the PADEP permitting process in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the Rose Tree Media students and community.

**WHEREAS**, Sunoco Pipeline L.P. (Sunoco) has announced that it is currently transporting hazardous, highly volatile liquids under high pressure through Delaware County, a “high consequence area” using a repurposed pipeline installed in the 1930s with a capacity of 70,000 barrels (2,940,000 gallons) per day; and

**WHEREAS**, additional proposed Sunoco pipeline(s), marketed as “Mariner East 2” could, if constructed, transport through the Rose Tree Media School District an additional 450,000 barrels (18,900,000 gallons) per day or more of these same materials; and

**WHEREAS**, Sunoco has a record of 276 spills of hazardous liquids since 2006, more than any other pipeline operator tracked by the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA); and

**WHEREAS**, these materials, which are being transported through the Rose Tree Media School District for the first time by Sunoco would, if released, create an invisible, odorless, heavier than air, and extremely flammable or explosive gas cloud; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed new pipeline(s), if constructed, would run within 625 feet of Glenwood Elementary School buildings, and within 850 feet of the center of the school complex, placing the entire school campus with 445 students and 60 staff members well within a potential blast zone; and

**WHEREAS** 2,143 students and 290 staff members based in three additional schools within the Rose Tree Media School District are located within 3 miles of the proposed pipeline, and therefore could be subject to emergency evacuation in the event of a leak, breach, or explosion; and

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2       **WHEREAS** notification systems are not currently in place for our school system  
3 whereby our schools would be directly and immediately notified regarding a potential leak; and  
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5       **WHEREAS**, in the event of a leak, breach, or explosion, the only currently  
6 recommended mode of evacuation is upwind, on foot, to a distance of no less than 1/2 mile, a  
7 plan that seems implausible where the lives of elementary school children are concerned; and  
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9       **WHEREAS** the current pipeline operations were not fully vetted and assessed by the  
10 local community and the regulatory community with regard to the potential to jeopardize Public  
11 Safety, and the health and safety of school communities in Delaware County by uncontrolled  
12 leaks and explosions; and  
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14       **WHEREAS**, the proposed Mariner East 2 pipeline is currently misclassified for  
15 regulatory purposes as a liquids pipeline but the contents, under varying pressures, transition  
16 between both gaseous and liquid states, and in the event of a leak revert entirely back to a  
17 gaseous state and, as such, this misclassification creates a gap in the application and relevance of  
18 important public safety regulations and requirements; and  
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20       **WHEREAS**, Sunoco's plans for the new pipelines are currently undergoing review by  
21 PADEP under the provisions of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania Code, Chapters 102 and 105; and  
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23       **WHEREAS**, the PADEP permitting process provides for intervention in the proceedings  
24 by interested parties such as Rose Tree Media School District, and such intervention will make  
25 the impact on and need for mitigation in RTMSD known; and

26       **WHEREAS**, the Rose Tree Media School District believes the District should intervene  
27 in the PADEP permitting process for the proposed Sunoco Mariner East 2 pipeline project  
28 pursuant to the School Board's interests in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of students.  
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30       **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Rose Tree Media School District Board of  
31 School Directors, Delaware County that:  
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### 33                               **Section I**

34       Rose Tree Media School District Board of School Directors, Delaware County, declares itself an  
35 interested party in all proceedings before any and all County, State, Federal, and any other  
36 regulatory agencies involved in the approval of facilities, which could increase the shipment of  
37 hazardous liquids through the Rose Tree Media School District in close proximity to our schools  
38 and students, including but not limited to petroleum, petroleum products, and natural gas liquids.  
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### 40                               **Section II**

41       The Rose Tree Media School Board is prepared to authorize and utilize appropriate resources for  
42 the purpose of intervening in the PADEP permitting process for the proposed Sunoco Mariner  
43 East 2 pipeline and any other proposed extraction or transportation project of petroleum,

1 petroleum products, and/or natural gas liquids that may have direct or indirect impacts on the  
2 health, safety, and welfare of district students.

### 3 4 **Section III**

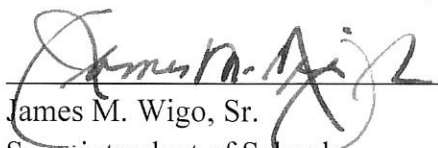
5 The Rose Tree Media School Board asks that the Governor of the Commonwealth of  
6 Pennsylvania and the Secretary of the PADEP allow for an open comment period of no less than  
7 60 days upon the resubmission of the Sunoco Mariner East 2 permit application to the PADEP,  
8 and similarly requests a public hearing to be held in Delaware County to address the public  
9 health and safety concerns of Delaware County municipalities and the Rose Tree Media School  
10 District.


### 11 **Section IV**

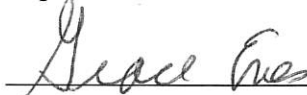
12 The Rose Tree Media School District also strongly suggests that the Governor of the  
13 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Secretary of the PADEP reclassify the permit  
14 application for the Mariner East 2 pipeline to include both liquid and gaseous material transport  
15 of hazardous materials. As part of the reclassification, we support the development of a  
16 comprehensive independent risk assessment study of all of Delaware County, including Rose  
17 Tree Media School District, as well as the development of an incident-response plan, which  
18 includes (but is not limited to) viable worst-case evacuation routes; enhanced safety equipment  
19 and safety training for first responders; and separation of new pipelines from existing residences,  
20 schools, businesses and hospitals by a distance equal to or greater than the Potential Impact  
21 Radius (PIR) of those pipelines.

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23 **ADOPTED** by the Rose Tree Media School District Board of School Directors, Delaware  
24 County, Pennsylvania, at the regular meeting of said Board held this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November  
25 2016.

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27 Rose Tree Media School District, Delaware County, Pennsylvania

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30 James M. Wigo, Sr.  
31 Superintendent of Schools

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34 William O'Donnell  
35 Board of School Director President

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37   
38 Grace Eves  
39 Board of School Director Secretary