



MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:

Kori Walter, Press Secretary
610.594.1415

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2009

***Gerlach, Sestak Will Discuss Bipartisan Proposals
to Give Public Greater Say in FERC Process***

Legislation would create an Office of Public Advocate, require hearings on natural gas pipeline projects under review by federal energy regulators

Thursday, April 16, 2009

WHAT: Joint Press Conference on FERC legislation

WHEN: 1:30 PM

WHERE: Home of Louis Ottaviano
292 South Woodmont Drive
Downingtown PA 19335

Exton (PA) – Congressman Jim Gerlach (PA-6th District) and Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7th District) will visit the East Caln Township home of Louis Ottaviano on Thursday to highlight legislation aimed at giving the public greater input on matters before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Ottaviano's home is in the path of the Sentinel natural gas pipeline expansion project -- one of a handful of proposed pipeline projects in Chester County affecting hundreds of property owners. And Ottaviano is one of 53 property owners hit with eminent domain suits filed by pipeline owner Transco in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia.

A series of public meetings on Sentinel and other projects has revealed complaints about the FERC process and concerns about the accuracy of maps and other information the Commission used to grant Transco a permit to take up to 75-feet of privately and publicly owned land.

Under H.R. 1921 sponsored by Gerlach and Sestak, an independent Office of Public Advocate would be created within the Department of Justice. The Public

Advocate would receive public comments about natural gas pipeline applications pending before FERC and have the authority to appeal FERC decisions deemed harmful to public safety.

Gerlach and Sestak also have sponsored H.R. 1922 to require FERC to hold at least one public hearing before a permit for work on public or private land can be granted.

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