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Schroder Introduces Legislation to Protect Communities Targeted by Natural Gas Pipelines

HARRISBURG - Rep. Curt Schroder (R-East Brandywine) has introduced legislation that will provide regional control over the placement of natural gas pipelines in communities across Pennsylvania.

House Bill 1817 establishes a Mid-Atlantic Area Natural Gas Corridor Interstate Compact. The compact would have the power to govern the siting of interstate natural gas pipelines within their area, replacing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which presently has exclusive authority when it comes to siting. The federal Natural Gas Act of 1938 provides for interstate compacts.

"The current system of siting natural gas pipelines is broken," said Schroder. "The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has been acting as a rubber stamp for the pipeline companies and property owners are paying the price. Their land is being devoured by easements, and natural resources are being threatened. Homeowners are left to plead their cases to an unresponsive federal bureaucracy in Washington, D.C. FERC is not cognizant of the needs of our communities and is unresponsive to our residents."

Concerns over the Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation's expansion in Chester County, as well as other projects targeting Chester County, have also raised many concerns about the potential adverse impact on the Brandywine Creek watershed, aquatic life and local drinking water. Schroder has been working with residents to obtain answers from FERC and to protect threatened natural resources.

"It's time to level the playing field and provide a review process that will protect our communities, citizens and natural resources," said Schroder. "An interstate compact will bring decision-making closer to those communities that are home to pipelines and will force pipeline companies to be more responsive to the needs and concerns in those communities."

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