



NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

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The Honorable Phil Murphy
Governor of New Jersey
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

February 11, 2020

Dear Governor Murphy,

As Governor, you have the authority to veto minutes to block the action of a government entity, such as the Pinelands Commission, when they do something inappropriate. We believe that their decision on their January 10, 2020 meeting to vote down a resolution addressing the remand of the South Jersey Gas Application was wrong. When the Pinelands Commission takes a final vote on an issue, it cannot be brought up again. By voting down even resolution, it blocks the commission from taking final action on the SJ Gas pipeline. That is why we ask that you veto the minutes of this meeting. We would rather no meeting than a bad meeting.

We have been trying to get the Commission to rescind their approval since March. The purpose of the SJ Gas pipeline was to build a natural gas plant in Cape May, however now that B.L England is closing and will not repower with natural gas, there is no need for that pipeline. This decision made by the Pinelands Commission goes against the CMP and Attorney General Grewal's letter vacating the approval of the SJ Gas pipeline. The decision also means SJ Gas would still be able to reapply or find another buyer for B.L England. The BPU approval of the SJ Gas pipeline is based on the Pineland's approval so as long as the Pinelands Commission don't rescind their approval, the BPU approval still stands. Our concern is that the SJ Gas proposal could come back.

When the Pinelands Act was passed forty years ago, one of the major reasons was to prevent pipelines coming through to connect offshore oil to refineries in south Jersey. The SJG pipeline would not only destroy the Pinelands but also impact critical drinking water for millions of people. We ask that you to veto the minutes of the Pinelands Commission January meeting so that this outrageous act did not happen and so that we can get a denial on this terrible project. It is better to have no resolution than a voted down resolution because then we can still work on rescinding the approval.

We ask you to protect our environment and protect the Pinelands. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (609) 558-9100.

Sincerely,



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Jeff Tittel

Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club