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BEFORE THE

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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IN THE MATTER OF: : Project No.
Nexus Gas Transmission Texas : PF15-11-000
Eastern Application Lease :
Project :

- - - - - x

Midview Middle School
12865 Grafton Road
Grafton, Ohio 44044

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

The above-entitled matter came on for technical
conference, pursuant to notice, at 6:00 p.m., Joanne
Wachholder, the moderator.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (6:03 p.m.)

3 MS. WACHHOLDER: We're going to get started in
4 just a few minutes.

5 (Pause.)

6 MS. WACHHOLDER: All right. We're going to get
7 started now.

8 Good evening everyone. On behalf of the Federal
9 Energy Regulatory Commission, also known as FERC or the
10 Commission, I'd like to welcome you all here tonight. The
11 primary purpose of this meeting is to give you an
12 opportunity to provide comments on the Nexus Gas
13 Transmission Project in Texas Eastern Appalachian Lease or
14 TEAL Project.

15 Let the record show that the public scoping
16 meeting began at 6:03 p.m. on April 28th, 2015.

17 My name is Joanne Wachholder. I'm the
18 environmental project manager with FERC's Office of Energy
19 Projects. With me tonight at the back table is Alisa
20 Lykens, also from FERC, and representing FERC are John
21 Muelhausen, Abby Cordy, and April Holdren with Mergent,
22 that's an environmental consulting firm that's assisting us
23 in the production of the environmental impact statement or
24 EIS that will be prepared for this project.

25 As you can see, this meeting is being recorded,

1 well, you can't see, he's sitting back there. He's back
2 there. That's our court reporter. He's going to record
3 everything so we have an accurate record of tonight's
4 comments. A transcript of this meeting will be placed in
5 the public record so that everyone has access to the
6 information discussed here tonight.

7 I'll quickly run through the agenda for tonight's
8 meeting. I'll start out by briefly explaining the role of
9 the FERC and our application process. I'll also describe
10 the projects that are before us. Then we'll here from those
11 of you who signed up to speak at the table in the back and
12 make formal comments on the project.

13 If we have time at the end of the meeting, anyone
14 who did not sign up but would like to have their comments
15 heard will have a chance to speak. The meeting will end
16 once all speakers have provided their comments or by 10
17 p.m., whichever comes first.

18 I would like to begin by describing the FERC.
19 FERC is an independent agency that, among other things,
20 regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas. We
21 review proposals and authorize construction of interstate
22 natural gas pipelines, storage facilities, and liquefied
23 natural gas terminals. As a federal licensing agency, the
24 FERC has the responsibility under the National Environment
25 Policy Act or NEPA to consider the potential environmental

1 impacts associated with a jurisdictional project.

2 With regard to the Nexus and TEAL projects the
3 FERC is the lead federal agency for the NEPA review and the
4 preparation of the environmental impact statement.

5 The Commission is made up of five members who are
6 appointed by the president and approved by the Senate. The
7 Commission staff, which includes me and Lisa, prepare the
8 technical information to assist the Commissioners in making
9 their decisions. When a company wants to build pipeline
10 facilities to transport or sell natural gas in interstate
11 commerce, the company files an application with the
12 Commission. Nexus and Texas Eastern plan to file their
13 applications in November of 2015 and are requesting
14 Commission's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
15 by November of 2016.

16 As an introduction to the planned projects, Nexus
17 plans to construct about 250 miles of new 36-inch diameter
18 pipeline in northern Ohio and southeastern Michigan, up to
19 130,000 horsepower of compression at four new natural
20 gas-fired compressor stations in northern Ohio, and four new
21 metering stations in northern Ohio and southeastern
22 Michigan.

23 The Nexus Project would provide up to 1,500,000
24 dekatherms per day of natural gas to various markets in the
25 U.S. Midwest and Canada. Texas Eastern plans to construct

1 4.5 miles of pipeline looping adjacent to its existing line
2 30 in Monroe County, Ohio, install an additional 9,400
3 horsepower of compression at its currently approved Colerain
4 Compressor Station in Belmont County, Ohio, construct one
5 new compressor station with 18,800 horsepower in Columbiana
6 County, Ohio, and make additional piping modifications.

7 The TEAL Project would provide up to 950,000
8 dekatherms per day of natural gas from the Appalachian basin
9 to various markets in the U.S. Midwest and Canada via a
10 lease of the capacity to Nexus.

11 It is important for everyone to know that the
12 planned projects are not conceived by and are not promoted
13 by the FERC or our cooperating agencies. The FERC staff
14 reviews applications for the authority to build and operate
15 interstate natural gas pipeline and Nexus and Texas Eastern
16 are in the process of preparing their route for their
17 pipelines and preparing applications to submit to FERC.

18 Once the applications are submitted, our
19 obligation is to review the applications and prepare an
20 analysis of the environmental impacts.

21 Tonight's meeting is not a public hearing. We
22 are not here to debate the proposal or to make any
23 determinations on its fate. We are here to listen to your
24 concerns so we can consider them in our analysis of the
25 potential natural and human environmental impacts of the

1 projects and how those impacts might be reduced or avoided.
2 If there are any general objections or support to the
3 project or other non-environmental issues concerning the
4 proposal, those issues would be considered by the Commission
5 in its determination of the project's public convenience and
6 necessity whereas environmental and safety impacts are
7 addressed by FERC environmental staff in our EIS.

8 In other words, the Commission wants to hear your
9 concerns about the non-environmental issues, however, those
10 issues will be addressed in a different way.

11 Now, I want to briefly describe our environmental
12 review process. We are currently near the beginning of our
13 environmental review process. Nexus and Texas Eastern
14 entered into FERC's prefiling process on January 9th and
15 26th of this year respectively which began our review of the
16 projects.

17 The purpose of the prefiling process is to
18 encourage involvement by all interested stakeholders in a
19 manner that allows for the early identification and
20 resolution of environmental issues. The FERC docket numbers
21 for the projects are PF15-10-000 and PF15-11-000. The PF
22 means prefiling and no formal application has been filed at
23 FERC for the projects. Once Nexus and Texas Eastern file
24 formal applications, new docket numbers will be assigned
25 with a CP docket number. The goal of prefiling is to get

1 information from the public as well as agencies and other
2 groups so that we can incorporated all substantive issues of
3 concern into our review.

4 On April 8th, 2015, FERC issued a notice of
5 intent to prepare an environmental impact statement also
6 known as an NOI for the Nexus and TEAL Projects and
7 initiated a scoping or comment period. The NOI was mailed
8 to over 4,000 stakeholders and describes the environmental
9 review process, some already identified environmental
10 issues, and the steps the FERC and the cooperating agencies
11 will take to prepare the EIS.

12 Federal, state, local, and other governmental
13 agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise are
14 welcome to cooperate in preparation of the EIS.

15 We have set an ending date of May 22nd, 2015 for
16 the scoping period. However, the end of the scoping period
17 is not the end of public involvement. I repeat that. It's
18 not the end -- the end of scoping period is not the end of
19 public involvement or your only opportunity to comment. We
20 will accept comments throughout our review of the project,
21 but for us to adequately address your comments, analyze
22 them, and research the issues, we ask that you try to get
23 those to us as soon as possible. There will be another
24 comment period once the draft EIS is published.

25 Extra copies of the NOI and other project

1 handouts are located at the table where we came in. A
2 speakers' list is also located at the table. We will use
3 that list to call speakers to the podium tonight. If you
4 wish to speak and have not signed up, please add your name
5 to the list.

6 In addition to verbal comments provided tonight
7 we will also accept your written comments. If you have
8 comments but do not wish to speak tonight, you may provide
9 written comments on the comment forms provided on the back
10 table. You may drop those off with us, or mail them at a
11 later date.

12 Be sure to include the project docket numbers,
13 PF15-10 or PF15-11, and your personal information if you
14 want us to be able to contact you or to be placed on the
15 mailing list.

16 Your comments tonight, together with any written
17 comments you have already filed or intend to file will be
18 added to the official record of the proceeding. We consider
19 the prefiling process to be, amongst other things, an
20 extension of our scoping process.

21 The scoping process is a learning process. It is
22 where we educate ourselves about the projects and the
23 potential impacts and environmental impacts. During this
24 scoping process we are gathering information. The four
25 general sources we are using include information provided by

1 the applicant, input from other federal, state, and local
2 agencies, our own field work and research of different
3 issues, and information from the public.

4 We then take all the comments that address
5 natural and human environmental issues and utilizing all
6 available information and expertise, factor them into our
7 independent analysis of the project's potential impacts.
8 This will include an examination of the proposed facility
9 locations as well as alternative sites. We will assess the
10 project's effects on water bodies and wetlands, vegetation
11 and wildlife, endangered species, cultural resource, soils
12 and geology, land use, air quality, noise, and safety. We
13 will publish those findings in a draft EIS which will then
14 be distributed for a minimum 45-day public comment period.
15 Additional public comment meetings will be announced at that
16 time when we invite the public to provide additional
17 comments on our draft EIS analysis and conclusions. The
18 public comment meetings may be similar in format to this one
19 and possibly at the same facility if it is available.

20 At the end of the draft EIS comment period, FERC
21 staff will prepare a final EIS that specifically addresses
22 each comment received on the draft EIS and includes all
23 necessary changes additions and modifications to conclusions
24 reached in the draft EIS.

25 Once we have issued the final EIS, it is

1 forwarded to our Commissioners for their consideration. I'd
2 like to remind everyone that the EIS is not the
3 decisionmaking document. It is merely our analysis of the
4 potential impacts of the projects and the alternatives. The
5 Commission will consider the findings, conclusions and
6 recommendations in the EIS as well as public comments on
7 non-environmental issues including engineering, market need,
8 rates, finances, tariffs, and costs in making an informed
9 decision on whether or not to authorize the projects and if
10 so, under what conditions.

11 Currently our mailing list for the project is
12 over 4,000 stakeholders. If you received a copy of the NOI
13 in the mail you are already on the mailing list to receive
14 the EIS. There is a return mailer attached to the back of
15 the NOI by which you can indicate if you want to correct
16 your mailing address, or remove your name from the mailing
17 list. Also, please note because of the size of the mailing
18 list, the mailed versions of the EIS will be on a CD-ROM.

19 We are now going to move into the part of the
20 meeting where we will hear comments from the audience
21 members, particularly the affected landowners. As I
22 mentioned before, if you would rather not speak, you may
23 hand in written comments tonight or send them to the
24 Secretary of the Commission by following the procedures
25 outlined in the NOI and comment forms.

1 Whether you verbally provide your comments or
2 mail them in, they will be equally considered by FERC. It
3 is important that you include the docket numbers, as I
4 mentioned before. The Commission also encourages electronic
5 filings of written comments. The instructions are in the
6 NOI or one of the brochures we had in the back. Or you can
7 find it at our website which is www.ferc.gov, g-o-v, under
8 the e-filing link.

9 Again, this meeting is being recorded by a
10 transcription service. All of your comments will be
11 transcribed and placed into the public record. For the
12 benefit of all in attendance and for accuracy of the
13 transcript, I will set some ground rules. When your name is
14 called, please step up to the mike and clearly state your
15 name and any affiliation if there is one. Also, please
16 speak directly into the microphone so that you can be
17 clearly heard by the reporter, the panel, and the audience.

18 And originally I had said there would be a
19 three-minute limit to speakers, but because we have a small
20 enough mailing list, I'm not going to limit your time, I
21 just suggest that you keep it brief enough so that we can
22 get out of here on time. Like I said, we don't want to
23 limit anyone's time, so we're going to try and get
24 everything done tonight.

25 I also want to make sure we conduct this meeting

1 in a professional decorum. We are here to hear each of your
2 comments on the projects. Please respect each speaker and
3 refrain from interruptions whether you agree with them or
4 not.

5 Lastly, before we start, as a courtesy to our
6 speakers and the rest of the audience, please turn off or
7 silence your cell phones. Thank you for your consideration.
8 Now we will start with the first speaker.

9 And you all should have numbered tickets, so the
10 first one is Richard Baumgartner, number one.

11 MR. BAUMGARTNER: My name is Richard Baumgartner.
12 I'm a property owner in Grafton Township. I'm in favor of
13 the CORN reroute. I'm here today to talk about protecting
14 an endangered species.

15 Most of my relatives live in Europe. Both of my
16 parents migrated to the United States around 1930. I was
17 born an only child. Got married, had children and
18 grandchildren. In total there are less than two dozen of us
19 Baumgartners in Ohio. Far less than the number of bald
20 eagles in Ohio. Since there are less than eagles, I
21 consider myself an endangered species. I was hoping to
22 build my nest out in Grafton Township, but now I am told
23 there might be a 36 or 42 or whatever inch pipeline going
24 through my front yard. Nobody will tell me where or when
25 this pipe would be built. Would it go through my new living

1 room, bathroom, or kitchen? Would I have a bridge going up
2 from my bedroom to the garage? Is a bridge over the pipe
3 even allowed? I only have about 300-foot frontage. If the
4 pipe goes through my front yard, it must go through some
5 other part of a future house. There goes my nest. If you
6 care about the poor bald eagle, how about a little concern
7 about endangered Baumgartners?

8 Maybe I could sell and build my nest somewhere
9 else? What crazy bird would want to live with a pipe
10 through their nest? Are there still any cuckoos in Ohio?
11 When will I know? This sounds like a Cleveland Browns
12 slogan, maybe next year.

13 So I sit here paying taxes on a lot that I can do
14 nothing with, my best hope is that the Green City, CORN
15 reroute is accepted. Remember endangered species ask for
16 Nexus reroute, support CORN.

17 What this is saying is, this pipeline really does
18 affect my environment. It may not be the official
19 definition of an environment issue as far as FERC is
20 concerned, but it's a definite issue as far as I'm
21 concerned.

22 Thank you.

23 (Appause.)

24 MS. WACHHOLDER: Speaker number two is Tim
25 Zulinski.

1 MR. ZIELINSKI: My name is Tim Zielinski. I'm a
2 landowner and a member of CORN, the Coalition to Reroute
3 Nexus. My wife and I have lived in Grafton Township for 37
4 years, raised three children there and intend to stay there.
5 Two of our children have built houses on our farm and the
6 third is in the planning stage.

7 This pipeline, as originally planned, could be as
8 close to 80 feet from my house and could disrupt our septic
9 system, field drainage, and cropland usage. In addition, it
10 leaves our land and goes directly into a small wetland area
11 and crosses an Ohio Edison 345 KB power transmission line.
12 The question is, where are the safety setbacks? The answer,
13 there are none.

14 This pipeline is endangering hundreds of people
15 in Grafton Township let alone all of the other towns and
16 villages that it traverses, they're all heavily populated in
17 the eastern part of Ohio. For these reasons we support the
18 City of Green proposal to reroute this and cut the exposure
19 of residents to a catastrophic rupture.

20 We keep hearing about how safe these pipelines
21 are, but ruptures, fires, and explosions are occurring
22 regularly. Anything manmade can and will break eventually
23 whether it's by deterioration of by mechanical damage,
24 something is going to happen.

25 The only way to protect the people living in

1 proximity to these pipelines is to move them far enough away
2 from residents and schools, et cetera, so that when an
3 incident occurs life is protected.

4 Again, we fully support the CORN City of Green
5 reroute would solve these problems.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number three, John Patton.

9 MR. PATTON: My name is John Patton, I'm a member
10 of CORN and a stakeholder landowner. I support the City of
11 Green reroute of the Nexus Pipeline because it will reduce
12 the impact by 70 percent to landowners like myself and to
13 the environment.

14 The pipeline right now, as planned, goes right
15 directly through the middle of my property. I not only have
16 environmental concerns, I have concerns that this would do
17 massive damage to my house from flooding that could very
18 well occur during the construction phase.

19 As far as the environmental concern, the pipeline
20 would go directly through low wetlands and a drainage creek
21 on my property that encompasses three farms plus about a
22 mile and a half of my street.

23 Picture number one, you guys can't see it, but
24 I'll have it later, picture number one it is the southern
25 farm and the street drainage section flowing into the ditch

1 creek. Picture number two is the ditch at this point going
2 to the back creek.

3 I've circled the survey stream to mark where the
4 pipeline is surveyed to go.

5 Picture number three is the farms to the north
6 and northeast with hundreds of acres draining into this
7 creek.

8 Picture number four is the creek after the
9 culverts. Notice, this isn't a small creek. This is a
10 pretty major water flow.

11 Picture number five shows part of the low
12 wetlands that always flood during the spring rains and also
13 during summer downpours.

14 I've circled the survey stick that Nexus put in
15 to show where the pipeline is projected to go.

16 Picture number six is another picture of the
17 wetlands by the creek. Notice the mud from where the water
18 goes over the creek. This floods the entire back section of
19 the woods, not only my property, but my neighborhoods
20 properties to both sides.

21 Picture number seven and number eight is the
22 massive construction area of a 36- to 42-inch pipeline.

23 I believe this will have a major environmental
24 impact to all of the farms around me due to the nature of
25 the drainage that goes directly in the pipeline's current

1 path. This will also have an environmental impact due to
2 the fact that the current survey goes directly through my
3 neighbors' and my septic system.

4 Not to mention that during the construction phase
5 the septic systems will more than likely flood out spilling
6 raw sewage everywhere.

7 Another huge concern of mine is the property
8 damage that this will cause to my house due to the flooding
9 especially during the construction phase of this project.

10 See picture number nine of the flooding. This is
11 just during a routine downpour. And it goes into my
12 neighbor's and my property.

13 It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that
14 pictures seven and eight will block all the drainage of the
15 road and farms that would go directly to my neighbor's and
16 my house flooding them all.

17 Of course, should the pipeline go through my
18 neighbor to the east, he won't have to worry about it
19 because they're going to take his house. It's less than 70
20 feet away from the pipeline as currently projected.

21 Picture number ten in my neighbor's house, pretty
22 bad picture, but that's where the stake is and that's where
23 his house is.

24 Picture number 11 is basically where it's going
25 directly through my horse pasture. So it's going to not

1 only affect that, but it's going to affect the ability to
2 get to my second pasture and that's going to affect pricing
3 for hay for that year. I imagine I would have to bring in a
4 bunch of hay.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

8 Number four, Ann Ingram.

9 MS. INGRAM: My name is Ann Emerick Ingram from
10 the town of Oberlin in Loraine County, Ohio. I am a member
11 of the Coalition to Reroute Nexus. And my home is located
12 within the 1500 designated blast radius of the current Nexus
13 Pipeline route. I fully support relocating the pipeline
14 route to the suggested City of Green proposal.

15 I was born and raised in Oberlin. It's an
16 historic college town founded in 1833. It's the first
17 co-educational college in the country. It's often called
18 the town that started the Civil War because of its stance
19 against slavery. It's the first school on the land to grant
20 an undergraduate degree to an African-American woman. Today
21 it ranks in the top 25 liberal arts schools in the country.
22 Its world class music conservatory ranks 12th. Our town of
23 8,000 residents hosts an art museum exhibiting works by
24 Picasso, Monet, Mattise. If the students wish to rent a
25 great work of art for their dorm room, the cost is \$5 a

1 semester. I live in a very special place. And I'm
2 obviously a very proud resident.

3 After my husband died, three years ago, I decided
4 to return to my hometown to enjoy time with my grandchildren
5 and great nieces and nephews. The current route of the
6 Nexus pipeline runs directly parallel to our community
7 recreation center. Beyond that and even nearer to the
8 pipeline route lies Oberlin's little league baseball and
9 soccer fields.

10 At the end of my street is a wetlands area that
11 hosts the eastern box turtle, magnolia warblers, gray cat
12 birds, and a long list of other species that are listed as
13 population declines.

14 I understand that everyone thinks their hometown
15 is special and I'm not suggesting that a pipeline is
16 rerouted just to protect my town. Yet, when the suggested
17 alternative pipeline proposed by the City of Green would
18 mean exposure to 1,393 residents compared to 4,527 as the
19 current route defines. It would make more sense to me that
20 exposure to less people would offer a much more probable
21 solution.

22 The route proposed by our coalition would mean
23 that no schools would be in the pipeline sites compared to
24 the three schools now exposed.

25 The wetland area affected would be reduced by 58

1 percent by the City of Green proposal.

2 Understanding that in general, pipelines might be
3 considered safe. Why take a risk when safer options are
4 available? Airplanes offer the safest form of
5 transportation, yet when new airports are planned, they seek
6 outlying areas with less people, less change of tragedy.
7 That is common sense. A contingency for safety to me makes
8 common sense.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number five, Karen Fridenstine.
12 Thank you.

13 MS. FRIDENSTINE: I'm Karen Fridenstine. I'm a
14 Loraine County resident. I'm speaking to you specifically
15 about the 72 acres of land that we have bordering State
16 Route 58 immediately south of Oberlin. Immediately south
17 means that this splash zone owned by Metro Parks and the
18 athletic facility referred to as the Oberlin little league
19 fields and soccer fields that is all on the north border of
20 my 72 acres. The south border is a rather new development
21 of beautiful condos and individual homes. Immediately to
22 the southwest there is a wetland area of which Ann referred
23 specifically to a number of endangered or protected species.
24 I have a great concern for this area.

25 Oberlin is very proud of trying to be green in

1 all areas to take care of the environment and they have been
2 very careful to commercial development that borders Oberlin
3 doing everything they can to see to it it's constructed in
4 that fashion.

5 We do have a lot of concerns about this pipeline.
6 I am a member of CORN and very strongly support them. The
7 70 percent improvement in residential structures, that's a
8 lot that can be affected by this southern reroute. The
9 schools, the churches, and the wetlands are also significant
10 percentages.

11 I realize that within our society we have a need
12 for natural gas. We have a need for a lot of energy
13 development. But there are better ways, sometimes, to go
14 about doing things. And I think the southern reroute which
15 we happen to propose deserves serious consideration because
16 it is a better route. It's a better route, I feel, also for
17 the individuals investing and actually doing it and placing
18 the finances up for it.

19 When you look at the expenses simply of not going
20 through so many residential structures and other structures
21 compared to more open farmlands which is more south, I think
22 right there you can see that the little over nine miles in
23 additional length is still going to be a good move
24 financially. I'm sorry that you're losing so much time in
25 checking out this more northern route. And I understand

1 there wasn't quite the care and time possibly put into this
2 original route plan.

3 I do -- within my 72 acres where I was born, I
4 was raised, and now, as I said, the Metro parks as well as
5 the development on either side of us has sprung up since
6 then. But my consideration is that my land is currently
7 being farmed successfully. What's going to happen to that?
8 But the greater consideration is for over five years our
9 land has been put up for sale, developmentally, to be
10 developed. I am already with one pipeline running through
11 it, two others border very close to our property and I
12 understand that those very probably are reasons why they're
13 considering placing this one. But with each additional
14 pipeline that is placed the route that is taken is
15 considered more of a corridor. And I have a great deal of
16 consideration that needs to be placed in that area because
17 even if each only take 600 feet, you start multiplying that
18 by the three potential pipelines that are already in stages
19 of filing, that are to follow Nexus, my property is just
20 going to be in this beautiful land of America. What's free
21 about it? You're taking it. So I will appreciate
22 consideration that can be given to protect so many beautiful
23 things that have we have going on. And I thank you for
24 listening to my concerns.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

2 Number six, Paul Gierosky.

3 Six and seven, Paul and Beth.

4 MR. GIEROSKY: And we're not going to dance or
5 sing.

6 For those of you who don't know me, I'm Paul
7 Gierosky. My wife Elizabeth and I own property in York
8 Township, Medina County that is directly affected by the
9 route of this proposed pipeline.

10 We are members of the Coalition to Reroute Nexus
11 which is a grassroots organization that started in Medina
12 County and germinated out of a concern for the safety of the
13 public, for property values, for protection of property
14 values, and for the protection of property rights for all of
15 the citizens of the state of Ohio.

16 I am a co-founder of the coalition and serve on
17 its board of directors. On behalf of the board and all the
18 members of the coalition, I hereby fully support the reroute
19 proposed by the City of Green and developed in conjunction
20 with the coalition that was filed with the Commission on
21 March 23rd.

22 The proliferation of a completely new breed of
23 large-diameter, high-pressure pipeline proposed for our
24 state, Nexus is just one of these, should have all Ohioans
25 concerned. Our coalition's mission has focused on

1 informing, educating, and persuading nexus to choose a more
2 southerly route largely avoiding the densely populated
3 counties of Stark, Summit, Medina and Loraine in the east
4 and to avoid the ecologically unique and environmentally
5 sensitive openings region in Fulton County in the west.

6 Now, the issues raised with the process of
7 routing these projects are numerous. They include safety of
8 the public, you've heard that expressed multiple times,
9 safety for the pipeline itself. Why not put these in a
10 defined corridor established for that purpose. Diminished
11 property values. Our Medina County auditor is working on a
12 report that we will file shortly. Environmental pollution,
13 ecological degradation, but the one that gets me is the
14 blatant lack of respect for our individual property rights
15 guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment of our U.S. Constitution.

16 The Nexus Project as it traverses the eastern
17 counties of Ohio is traveling through many densely populated
18 cities and townships. In the west it cuts a swath through
19 the ecologically unique openings region. The disruption to
20 family residential properties, planned developments,
21 municipal properties, public parks and forest-covered
22 properties is entirely unnecessary. The pipeline could be
23 constructed using any one of many alternate routes which
24 will allow its implementation to be with much less
25 disruption to the citizens of Ohio and therefore

1 accomplished more quickly and at a reduced cost to the
2 shareholders of Specter Energy.

3 Joanne, you know, ever since we met on February
4 2nd in Wadsworth, and you suggested to us that it was our
5 responsibility to develop alternate route proposals, we've
6 been working on that, diligently as you know. Now we filed
7 with the City of Green a proposal on the 23rd of March and
8 on Monday of this week we filed the first segment of a
9 reroute proposal around the Oak Openings region in Fulton
10 County. The second segment is several weeks in the offing.
11 But it's coming and we're working on it, I promise you.

12 You know, as it relates to the City of Green
13 proposal, it's an outstanding achievement, okay, that
14 demonstrates that input at a local level combined with
15 understanding and knowledge of the conditions on the ground
16 are essential to the proper planning of a gas transmission
17 pipeline. The result in the City of Green situation is that
18 if it's embraced by Specter Energy, and I really expect it
19 will be because it's just common sense, it will affect 40
20 percent fewer businesses, 50 percent fewer churches, 70
21 percent fewer residences, and 100 percent fewer schools.
22 And the impact to our environment will also be reduced by 58
23 percent fewer acres of wetland affected. And these facts
24 are proven by a statistical analysis of both the current
25 route and the alternate that was proposed. And this was

1 accomplished by adding a mere 9.9 miles to the overall
2 250-mile route.

3 And for the union members in the crowd, my
4 friends, remember, more miles mean more jobs. So you should
5 support us. We're looking out.

6 In addition the alternate route has been designed
7 to rejoin the preferred nexus route in western Loraine
8 County to allow for reasonable access to potential gas
9 consumers on the west side of the Cleveland metro area and
10 points further west.

11 And as most of you are aware, the Nexus preferred
12 route is proposed -- is opposed unanimously by every
13 governmental body and stakeholder in Summit County, by
14 elected officials in five of six townships affected in
15 Medina County, the Medina County Commissioners, the Medina
16 Park District, the Medina Health Department, the Medina
17 Emergency Management Agency, and many more constituencies in
18 Loraine, Medina, Stark, and Wayne Counties for reasons that
19 are set forth in resolution after resolution and comments
20 filed on the FERC docket. And to date, elected officials
21 statewide in 25 governmental bodies have passed 22
22 resolutions and provided four letters of support for
23 rerouting of the Nexus project.

24 So, Joanne, I'm finished. But, remember, we have
25 two slots. Okay.

1 Thanks for the extra time.

2 You know if Specter Energy, Nexus is not -- will
3 not voluntarily adopt the entire City of Green reroute
4 proposal, we ask you and the Commission to use the authority
5 vested in your agency to enforce the proposal because it
6 resolves many of the issues raised with the process for
7 routing this project.

8 Thank you very much.

9 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you. Number eight is John
12 Pace.

13 MR. PAIS: Hello. My name is John Pais and I
14 live at 4011 Cleveland Road East, Huron, Ohio in Erie
15 County. Although I used to just live about a mile down the
16 road from here on Robson Road in Grafton.

17 Back in 2001 my late wife and I decided we wanted
18 to live in a more rural setting that had productive farmland
19 and ample parks and wildlife in a beautiful setting. So we
20 moved there in Berlin Township. And since that time our
21 family has enjoyed with our friends and neighbors the beauty
22 and bounty of the Erie County region. We are one mile from
23 the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine area with heron
24 rookeries and bald eagle nests and waters that flow into
25 Lake Erie and two miles from Edison Woods that abuts State

1 Route 61 and Mason Road where the Nexus is slated to cross.

2 We visit those parks regularly and we use nearby
3 farms and orchards for produce.

4 In the late fall of 2014 we began to learn that
5 much of the land, as well as the rivers and streams that
6 feed the watershed were being sited for this proposed
7 pipeline project, the Nexus.

8 As more details unfolded about the proposed
9 route, the obvious question was, why here? Why in this
10 marvelous serene and productive area? You know, my son goes
11 to school in southern Ohio and Sunday as we were driving
12 back, coming up through all the beautiful farmland of Ohio
13 we saw how easily it be to place a pipeline in a much more
14 sensible corridor.

15 The very terrain includes a mix of sandstone
16 quarries in Erie County, sensitive rivers and streams and
17 wetlands as well as rich farmland. The disruption this
18 massively obtrusive project will leave in its wake is
19 unnecessary, unwanted and unfathomable to the health and
20 safety of the people and wildlife who peacefully and
21 respectfully co-exist on these sensitive lands. We know
22 which direction the pollution will flow north to Lake Erie.

23 This project has been a real eye opener about how
24 powerful interests wield their influence. The permitting
25 process, sadly is weak and outdated and difficult for

1 average people to navigate. I urge FERC to consider the
2 long-term impacts of this pipeline which will reek havoc on
3 our fragile and production economic systems. I urge them to
4 reject the pipeline.

5 I also have a letter written by a friend and
6 neighbor who received a letter from Specter and Nexus
7 because the pipeline will be going through the back of their
8 property. Their names are Sherry and Jeff Bowers. They
9 live at 7416 Mason Road, Berlin Heights, Ohio. They write:

10 "In 1996 we moved out to Berlin Heights to not
11 only provide good, formal educational opportunities for our
12 children, but raise them in an environment that fosters
13 appreciation for the physical environment. That it did.
14 And as I get ready to watch my son graduate from John
15 Carroll University in a few weeks, environmental issues is
16 one of his top concerns. I do not believe that this
17 proposed route is a good choice. With the care provided
18 north of us by the Erie County Metro Parks of Edison Woods
19 and our stewardship of the land, we have witnessed a strong,
20 healthy, wildlife habitat.

21 Here is what we see. Daily we see species of
22 birds in our yard and the music is so sweet. We see
23 salamanders and frogs, and snakes. We see deer and fox. On
24 a beautiful moonlit night we can look out of my son's
25 bedroom window and look at deer in our yard. I think it is

1 morally and ethically wrong to disrupt the environment with
2 a proposed pipeline.

3 I cannot and will not let this happen. My
4 husband shares the same concern and he is a union
5 pipefitter. Thank you."

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number nine, John, Setlock.

8 MR. SETLOCK: Hello, John Setlock here. I just
9 found out about this meeting yesterday from a neighbor. I
10 guess I'm a little bit behind the loop on this proposed
11 pipeline. I found out a little bit about this today. I'm
12 one lonely landowner. I only have five acres. It's a small
13 lot. It's what you call a bowling alley lot, 175 wide by
14 1250 deep.

15 I have a power line that runs through it at about
16 a 45 degree angle, so that kind of cuts into my property
17 almost halfway. And then we're talking about sticking a gas
18 line right next to it which is going to take away some more
19 of my property. If it's the same width as the electrical
20 line, we're looking at about a third of my property. This
21 land was a field, an old field, farm field when I purchased
22 it 25 years ago. I since then built a home on it, put a
23 pond on it and planted every tree on it. Behind the power
24 lines I have -- it's my wooded area. So it's woods now. I
25 mean, 25 years later. But now we're looking to get rid of

1 that because we have to run the power line -- we have to run
2 the gas line through it. To me that's a big concern because
3 that's my wildlife sanctuary and I'm going to possibly lose
4 that.

5 So that's all I really have to say on it.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

8 Number ten, Mike Cramer.

9 MR. CRAMER: Yeah, my name is Mike Cramer. I'm
10 from Akron, Ohio and I'm here on behalf of Local 18
11 Operating Engineers. We support the Nexus Gas Line Project.
12 Nexus will be a critical economic development and
13 infrastructure project within Ohio that will bring thousands
14 of jobs to the region and the counties that surround it.

15 Our communities have the opportunity to play a
16 crucial role in moving Ohio and the nation towards energy
17 dependence -- independence as we continue to safely develop
18 and transport our abundant supplies of clean-burning,
19 low-cost natural gas. According to the U.S. Department of
20 Transportation interstate transmission pipeline is the
21 safest mode of transportation for natural gas.

22 The International Union of Operating Engineers
23 Local 18 is proud of the integrity and safety record that we
24 have in construction of the pipeline. Local 18 is one of
25 the largest -- has one of the largest training programs in

1 the country and it is recognized by others as one of the
2 most successful programs in the country. Local 18 has
3 members who live in every county in Ohio in which this
4 project is proposed to be in and our members welcome the
5 economic growth and job benefits that the Nexus project will
6 bring to the region.

7 I urge you to approve the pending Nexus pipeline
8 application and put our members to work.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

12 Next up is number 11, John Elder.

13 MR. ELDER: My name is John Elder. I live at 121
14 Kendell Drive in Oberlin. I'm a member of Communities for
15 Safe and Sustainable Energy, the organization that drafted
16 and publicized the City of Oberlin Community Bill of Rights
17 and Obligations Ordinance which was passed by over 70
18 percent of the Oberlin voters in November 2013.

19 This ordinance is founded on Article I, Section
20 20 of the Ohio Constitution which affirms that all people
21 have, and I quote, "Certain inalienable rights, among which
22 are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty,
23 acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and seeking
24 and obtaining happiness and safety" unquote. This ordinance
25 reclaims for the residents of Oberlin civil and political

1 rights that increasingly are being lost to corporate
2 interests in collusion with politicians whom they control.
3 We recognize that it is not enough to try to regulate
4 inherently dangerous enterprises or limit their impact
5 through zoning. We realize the futility of trying to block
6 their permitting when the permitting agency is financed by
7 the permit fees and/or the entities seeking the permits as
8 FERC is. If an enterprise is, by its very nature
9 destructive of human life and the environment, it should be
10 banned. The extraction of gas and oil by high-pressure,
11 slick water, horizontal fracturing of shale, fracking for
12 short, has been determined by our city to be inherently
13 destructive of human and environmental health, safety, and
14 welfare. Therefore, the City of Oberlin bans fracking and
15 its associated infrastructure including injection wells and
16 pipelines.

17 The proposed Nexus pipeline or any other pipeline
18 within the city limits or the area of its water supply
19 within 20 miles of the city limits is banned. The city
20 council of Oberlin unanimously passed a resolution that it,
21 quote, "Declares and adopts a policy to refrain from
22 authorizing or taking any actions that would facilitate or
23 otherwise be supportive of the construction of the Nexus Gas
24 Transmission Pipeline or any other transmission line within
25 the corporate limits of the city of Oberlin" unquote.

1 If the developers of Nexus move its route more
2 than 20 miles from Oberlin legal actions involving the city
3 and the developers will be obviated. However, the larger
4 issue of permitting Nexus by FERC will remain. Is the
5 construction of Nexus in, quote, "The public convenience and
6 necessity" unquote? Or in fact is it only for corporate
7 profit?

8 In their rush to exploit the environmentally
9 destructive fracking process under the banner of "energy
10 independence" the gas and oil companies have produced a glut
11 of their product which they now realize can bring a
12 significant profit only if a substantial amount can be
13 exported. This strategy depends on acquiring FERC public
14 convenience and necessity permits for transmissions lines
15 that can only be justified by feeding eventually into the
16 export market. The only deal Nexus has in Ohio is to supply
17 potentially an Erie County site that already has an adequate
18 supply of traditionally produced gas.

19 FERC can issue a permit only if a pipeline is
20 consistent with the public interest. It is time for FERC
21 truly to serve the public interest of the people of Ohio,
22 where many other pipeline proposals to export our glut of
23 natural gas are pending, by saying no to an unneeded
24 pipeline across the densely populated and environmentally
25 threatened area we call home. America's public interest and

1 our globe's environmental sustainability will be served by
2 alternative energy sources including solar and wind, not by
3 continued expansion of the burning of fossil fuels.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

7 Next up is number 12, Joyce Parker.

8 MS. PARKER: Hi, Joanne, I'm going to address
9 this rather to you. You wanted our concerns. I speak as a
10 grandparent who has responsibility for future generations
11 who will also need clean air, water, and land to thrive.
12 Safety matters.

13 I speak as a medical person who sees health as
14 our most valuable possession in life. I speak for
15 communities who are "we the people" but we're getting the
16 short end of the stick, I feel, when we're up against
17 powerful, money-rich corporations who look only at the
18 almighty dollar.

19 Our government seems to be more and more
20 dependent on corporations for guidance and decisions and it
21 is really disheartening to me. I want more emphasis on
22 sustainable energy, more conservation of energy, I want less
23 misinformation about the safety records of these
24 high-pressure gas lines and fracking for natural gas.

25 I want less misinformation about the impact of

1 job creation on the long-term. I do want our communities to
2 have clean air and water not polluted soil from leaky gas
3 pipes or toxic wells. The proposed pipeline is in our
4 watershed. I don't want our land to turn up -- be torn up
5 and put in risky pipelines through our state. We need to
6 protect our environment. It's the only one we have on this
7 planet. We reject high-pressure pipelines too. We need to
8 learn a new normal for energy conservation and safe sources.
9 Our government, if we could invest as much money in safe and
10 long-term energy solutions as the government supports the
11 fossil fuel industry, our economy would benefit and so would
12 our health.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. WACHHOLDER: Next up, number 13, Tim Dostal.

16 MR. DOSTALL: I'm Tim Dostall. I live on Neff
17 Road in Grafton Township and my two neighbors have pretty
18 much said it all for me, I think. But my main concern is my
19 house. I measured it, it is exactly 70 feet from where the
20 pipeline is going to be.

21 I retired a year ago. I want to stay there in my
22 retirement home. It's paid for, and I'm thinking they're
23 going to make me move.

24 The pictures that John showed you, a lot of those
25 were my yard. We only need an inch of rain and the entire

1 yard of mine floods, which I live with. But I think that's
2 probably an environmental hazard. I actually own two pieces
3 of property and a good part of it is wetlands and woods.
4 And I'm just afraid they're going to be cutting down trees
5 and I don't like the whole idea. So, thanks.

6 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. WACHHOLDER: Okay. Number 14, Kevin Kimble.

9 MR. KIMBLE: Hello. My name is Kevin Kimble and
10 I support the CORN reroute. I'm going to echo a lot of what
11 has already been said, but here goes. This is also -- this
12 was drawn up by my grandmother because I'm speaking on her
13 behalf as well. She's not here tonight.

14 My name is Kevin Kimble. I'm one of the owners
15 of May Blanch Farms. May Blanch Farms opposes the Nexus
16 Pipeline routed through our farms. We are located in
17 Litchfield Township, Bedina County, Ohio. Nexus is
18 proposing to go across our farm with their massive pipeline.
19 We've been in the same family for 130 years. I'm seventh
20 generation. It's a family treasure, historical property,
21 and we're currently farming the property still. We make
22 maple syrup, we raise bees, we have hens, you know, for eggs
23 and we still do some farming on a smaller scale.

24 Mr. Waggle right here, he still farms some of it
25 for his farm. I mean, the potential for future things that

1 could pop up, we don't know what we're going to be
2 restricted to with the pipeline possibly going across the
3 back. It's -- like I said, I'm going to be echoing a few
4 things. But the destruction of the land. We're concerned
5 about being able to make the syrup when it comes time to do
6 that. The financial burden is going to be added taxes. I
7 mean, we don't know what that's going to do.

8 We have a natural well in the back. The pipeline
9 would be going right through where the well is. We still
10 use the well.

11 There will be no benefit to our home for this
12 pipeline even though the pamphlets that keep coming out say
13 that there's potential for that. And that's one thing that
14 I haven't heard many people say. And I'm personally
15 offended by that. I mean, because there's no way we're
16 going to tap into a high-pressurized line like that. That's
17 just not going to happen, I don't guess. That's my opinion.

18 That about sums it up. Thank you. Thank you.

19 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. WACHHOLDER: Next up, number 15, Earl Pullen.

22 MR. PULLEN: My name is Earl Pullen and I live on
23 Route 83 in Grafton Township. The pipeline is proposed to
24 go across the back of my property.

25 MS. WACHHOLDER: Could you get closer to the

1 mike, we can't hear you.

2 MR. PULLEN: And I am very concerned about it.
3 They're telling me that it's a public utility but yet I'm
4 told I can't get natural gas because we've been 20 years
5 trying to get natural gas. But I still can't, even with
6 this pipeline going in.

7 I am concerned about the environmental impact and
8 the fact that it's only 800 feet from my new home. And I
9 don't -- that's about it, I guess. I do support CORN to
10 reroute this pipeline.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. WACHHOLDER: Okay. Number 16 is Terry
13 Langley.

14 MR. LANGLEY: Good evening. My name is Terry
15 Langly and I am here tonight to speak to you on behalf of
16 the pipeline as Local 798 and Specter Energy. Not only
17 would this proposed Nexus pipeline benefit our country's
18 growing need for the expansion of the energy infrastructure,
19 and it will benefit 750-plus members we have living in the
20 area through the creation of much-needed jobs. It will
21 benefit you the people who live locally through the
22 generation of tax revenue and influx of money into your
23 local business during the installation of the Nexus.

24 The construction of the Nexus pipeline will move
25 the natural gas from the Utica and Marcellus shale to areas

1 in great need of natural gas and its many uses. Natural gas
2 is the cleanest, most energy- efficient way we have in our
3 country to provide our energy needs. But it is so much than
4 a way to heat a home or a business or even power a vehicle.
5 Through the various processes we can use natural gas to make
6 fertilizers for our farms, process it into base for many
7 herbicides, pesticides needed for the crop production, to
8 make paint, glue, vinegar, and installation, just to name a
9 few.

10 Natural gas is a necessity as we as a country
11 continue to separate ourself from the independence on the
12 Middle East. As I have previously stated, we need natural
13 gas as a nation. Transporting it by means of pipeline has
14 been proven time and time again to be the safest and has the
15 least long-term environmental impact. Using today's
16 technology and the best trained professionals in the world,
17 we ensure the pipeline that you as your community and as
18 Americans can feel only safe about the pipeline and proud as
19 well.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. WACHHOLDER: Okay. Next up is number 17,
23 Jimmy Stewart.

24 MR. STEWART: Thank you. And thank you for the
25 opportunity to provide testimony this evening on the

1 proposed Nexus Gas Transmission Project.

2 I am Jimmy Stewart and I am the president of the
3 Ohio Gas Association. The Ohio Gas Association is a natural
4 gas trade organization. It represents over 30 local
5 distribution companies in the state of Ohio including
6 cooperatives and many other affiliated members, the vast
7 majority -- including the vast majority of intra- and
8 interstate gas transmission companies in Ohio.

9 Collectively OGA members serve more than 3.6
10 million Ohio customers and maintain and manage over 50,000
11 miles of distribution and transmission pipeline throughout
12 the state. Which means that you and me and millions of
13 other people walk and drive over these pipelines every
14 single day.

15 I write today regarding the Ohio Gas
16 Association's full support for the proposed Nexus Gas
17 Transmission Project. As low-cost dependable energy
18 continues to be a key component in moving Ohio and the
19 nation forward, projects such as Nexus will provide the
20 critical infrastructure we need to ensure the safe and
21 reliable transportation of our nation's natural resources.
22 Today the natural gas industry safely operates 2.4 million
23 miles of distribution and transmission pipelines across the
24 country to help provide energy to more than 170 million
25 Americans. Every aspect from pipeline design to

1 construction through operation and standard maintenance is
2 strictly regulated by the state and federal agencies.

3 The continual enhancements in technology and
4 safety measures are in part what has kept pipelines the
5 safest, most energy-efficient and environmentally friendly
6 means of transporting natural gas.

7 A great example of this is the recently completed
8 New Jersey to New York expansion project that this company
9 was involved in. It consisted of a 36- and 42-inch pipe
10 built into lower Manhattan. The construction included
11 drilling nine tunnels, horizontal directional drills to
12 route the pipe under rivers that sounds wet, under streets,
13 one of which holds the industry record for the longest
14 30-inch horizontally directionally drilled pipeline in North
15 America going underneath the Hudson River into lower
16 Manhattan. That's a heavily populated area. And it was
17 done safely and it's done, it's operating now. It's saving
18 people in that area millions of dollars a year.

19 In addition to providing critical infrastructure
20 to transport natural gas, the strategic routing of the
21 proposed Nexus projects affords local distribution companies
22 access to the gas that can then be used to serve customers
23 right here in Ohio. Moreover the implementation of the
24 Nexus project will create good paying, local jobs and
25 increased tax revenues for Ohio communities and school

1 districts in a time where local government budgets are
2 tight.

3 The project will also establish foundation for
4 future growth opportunities that will attract new and
5 expanding businesses. Just as when you have a new four-lane
6 highway come through a state or county, not all the business
7 start up on day one. Some of them may come six months, six
8 years, 20 years later. It doesn't all happen on the first
9 day and it certainly doesn't happen before the project is
10 completed.

11 So at a time where natural gas infrastructure is
12 critical we can't delay approving and constructing the Nexus
13 pipeline. And to suggest somehow that a new pipeline can't
14 be safely built and operated, I personally think is an
15 insult to the skilled tradesmen that are going to be
16 building this project in their own county and own state. I
17 think it's an insult to suggest that people who go through
18 an apprenticeship program for years to do this specific type
19 of work and have decades of experience couldn't somehow
20 safely build and operate a project such as this. Not to
21 mention all the professionally licensed engineers who went
22 to the top universities in this state and others who are
23 going to be designing the program to somehow suggest that
24 they are not capable of building and designing this project
25 I think is really out of line.

1 So I would also address --

2 (Interruption from the audience.)

3 MS. WACHHOLDER: Please don't interrupt the
4 speaker.

5 MR. STEWART: That's a very good point because I
6 live in southern Ohio that other speakers have referred to
7 its natural beauty. There are several transmission
8 pipelines just a few miles from my house. There's no
9 shortage of beauty, wildlife, leisure, recreation activities
10 right in my own backyard, in the Athens, Megs and Bitten
11 County area. And I would suggest to any of you who haven't
12 been there, you should come down and take a look.

13 But thank you.

14 And as far as if you don't agree with some of the
15 laws, my suggestion is, I don't agree -- there's certain
16 laws in this nation I don't agree with either that have been
17 passed in my lifetime or prior to it, by all means, elect
18 representatives and senators that will get it changed if
19 that's your problem. In the meantime, it's the law, so we
20 have to follow the law.

21 So with that I would like to thank all of you for
22 your attention, and on behalf of the Ohio Gas Association
23 membership, I urge your favorable consideration of the Nexus
24 Project.

25 Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. WACHHOLDER: Okay. Next up, number 18,
3 Robert Wheeler.

4 MR. WHEELER: Hi, my name is Robert Wheeler. My
5 wife Linda and I live in Myland Township and Mason Road. We
6 have an historical significant property. We're on the
7 National Register. This will go about 200, 250 feet behind
8 our house proposed. And I for one am against the whole idea
9 of fracking, but I'm against the pipeline where it currently
10 stands. I think it should be at the very least routed south
11 and made sure it's using union people because they know what
12 they're doing.

13 But I do have a lot of concerns. The best I can
14 tell for the people of the state of Ohio, the only people
15 who may benefit would be the Pipefitters Union because as I
16 see it, it's a Texas company that's using Ohio's limited
17 natural resources and exporting them out of the country.
18 Primarily all of it is going out of the country. This -- I
19 don't see how this benefits any of us. But, again, we live
20 -- our house was built in the 1820s and we've been there
21 since the 1860s. I really would wish that FERC would deny
22 this or at least route it through southern Herron County,
23 somewhere much less populated and less historically and
24 environmentally sensitive.

25 Thank you much.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

3 Next up is number 19, David -- okay, LaBorde.

4 MR. LABORDE: Good afternoon and thank you guys
5 very much for giving me an opportunity to speak. My name is
6 David Laborde and I'm the Teamsters National Pipeline
7 Director. And I have testified in a lot of these hearings
8 across the country and I always wonder what can I say that
9 would be interesting to you folks.

10 Obviously I'm here in support of the pipeline and
11 I'm just going to tell you a quick little story and I'll sit
12 down. But where I live in northwestern Wisconsin, it's on
13 the Lake Superior Watershed Basin. I live there with my
14 wife and my eight-year-old son. I, like many of you, live
15 in a very rural, agricultural environment. My next door
16 neighbors are all organic farmers, some of them operate
17 dairy farms, some of them operate beef farms. I myself am a
18 hobby farmer and I grew up on a cow/calf operation in
19 central Minnesota.

20 Seven years ago I sat in this very hearing in my
21 home town because a company by the name of Embridge wanted
22 to build a 36-inch crude oil pipeline that ran 800 feet from
23 my house that I constructed one year before. I understand
24 people's concerns. But I would like to tell you what that
25 project did for my community and what that project did for

1 our entire state.

2 When we come in and we build these pipelines it
3 does bring in a great economic impact to your communities.
4 There are going to be millions of dollars spent in your
5 community, not only from the construction company, but from
6 the men and women who come here to work. Many of these men
7 and women that are going to come here are going to be right
8 here from the state of Ohio. We have approximately 40,000
9 Teamsters in this state. Our contract says that 50 percent
10 of all the hires have to come from the local area. These
11 are men and women just like you that live in your community
12 that have families, that have children. These jobs provide
13 us good-paying benefits, health insurance, retirements.
14 When that project went through my property or bordered my
15 property, excuse me. It didn't quite reach it. A lot of my
16 neighbors who have been long-time farmers were very, very
17 distraught and they had some of the same similar concerns
18 that I've heard here tonight. I'm here to tell you, folks,
19 that we're eight years after that project and my community
20 wishes that there was another pipeline that could be built.
21 We had roads fixed. Our property values were not
22 diminished. We had a brand-new school where my son goes to
23 school, we were able to build a school because we didn't
24 have to increase the levy just to go ahead and do that. We
25 are the best-trained people in the world to do this.

1 Our members, whether it be the welders, the
2 laborers, the operating engineers, or the Teamsters, we have
3 to go through very rigorous training to get this thing done.

4 One of the gentlemen spoke earlier about going
5 underneath the river. The Amnicon River is as certified
6 state trout stream in my community. I'm very proud to tell
7 you that I taught my eight-year-old son how to fish in that
8 trout stream. We have not damaged the environment. If this
9 pipeline is allowed to be built, I will give you my word
10 that as far as my members, we are going to treat your
11 community and your land with the utmost respect.

12 Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. WACHHOLDER: Okay. Next speaker, number 20
15 is Gay Baumgartner.

16 MS. BAUMGARTNER: My name is -- can you hear me?
17 My name is Gay Baumgartner. I own 30 acres of property in
18 Grafton Township. Okay. Can you hear me better?

19 I own 30 acres of property in Grafton Township.
20 I am a member of CORN which is the Coalition to Reroute the
21 Nexus Pipeline. We are not against pipelines, we are
22 against what Nexus has done to us.

23 I want to tell you a little bit about myself. I
24 am a daughter of a Marine who also was a union worker. I am
25 the wife of the Endangered Species Baumgartner sitting at

1 that table over there and we are concerned. I am the mother
2 of a Marine who fought in Afghanistan in the Persian Gulf
3 and as a result of his hard work and achieving the Navy and
4 Marine Commendation Medal, he lost his life as a result of
5 post traumatic stress.

6 So now my family has stood up for our country and
7 helped us get a way that we could be free to live in this
8 country without being afraid to go to bed at night and the
9 pipeline that is next to us. We are not concerned about the
10 pipeline or the energy source, even though we would prefer
11 solar, we understand that there are times when we need gas
12 energy. New York has a lot of people. We don't have that
13 issue here in Ohio. In fact, we are not fighting for energy
14 independence in Ohio, we are actually fighting for a company
15 who is not owned by us, has no relationship to us to
16 actually make a profit by taking this gas to Canada to
17 export it. So I am against this because of the safety
18 issues. I would think if Nexus had all the experience and
19 the concern for us as citizens, they could have prepared the
20 same kind of pipeline route that the City of Green and the
21 organization of CORN did, with concern for what those safety
22 setbacks should be even though the state of Ohio and the
23 federal government have not seen fit because the topic is
24 getting in the press more and more and more. This Nexus
25 pipeline is one of three or four planned for our region, and

1 yet our organization as the state of Ohio has not stepped up
2 and said, wait a second, we need to do something about this.
3 We cared enough to do something about the interstates and
4 the freeways to say we only have some and this is where they
5 go. But we have not done that for this pipeline.

6 I am also concerned about the lack of
7 transparency from Nexus. They say very misleading words.
8 They talk about jobs and the jobs for Ohio, but that's just
9 not the way that they present it. The jobs for Ohio will
10 mostly be fleeting, and then they're gone to the next
11 pipeline. Now we'll have more jobs if we have more
12 pipelines, but that's not what we're trying to go through.

13 I haven't seen anything from Nexus that I could
14 walk away with and say, I understand anything. So I am
15 concerned that we're not getting the right information. I'm
16 concerned that we need help from FERC to make sure that we
17 have protected our citizens in Ohio just like my son and his
18 friends have protected the United States.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

21 That's the last name I have on the list. So at
22 this time if anybody who either spoke already or hasn't
23 spoken would like to do so, raise your hand and you can come
24 on up and give your name and state your piece.

25 Come on up.

1 And restate your name again so he can get it in
2 the record.

3 MR. BAUMGARTNER: My name is Richard Baumgartner
4 and I just want to say one quick thing. I mean, I don't
5 want everybody to get the idea of we're against transporting
6 gas and pipefitters and jobs. We're just concerned about
7 where that pipeline goes and the safest place for it.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you. Okay. Next?

10 MR. PATTON: I'm John Patton again. Let me tell
11 you a little bit about myself. I spent 21 years serving in
12 the military. I earned this right to live where I wanted to
13 live. Matter of fact, I chose where I wanted to live when
14 I finally got done with my military service.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. PATTON: As far as Nexus and everybody, we're
18 not against you pipeline, we're against why didn't you think
19 about this, look where the routes are, and do it properly.
20 If you look at that map, you look where the CORN Coalition
21 has done their homework, that's in rural areas. That
22 doesn't go directly through townships, directly through
23 cities, there's a better way to do it.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. PATTON: Period. That's all we're asking you

1 to do is do a legitimate survey, look where this should go
2 and put it there because America does need the
3 infrastructure and we do need to get independent energy. So
4 that's -- just do your homework a little bit more and put it
5 where it needs to be.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. WACHHOLDER: Okay. In the back?

9 MS. LELOND: My name is Carol Lelond and the next
10 pipeline is going to go through my back yard in Henrietta
11 Township. And what I want to say is, I feel really bad for
12 the people in Green. I mean, if it goes through my
13 backyard, that's bad enough. But it's not affecting me as
14 badly as it does the people in Green. And all these schools
15 and too close to cities, and I really think it needs to be
16 rerouted.

17 I do not agree with fracking, but like people
18 say, we do need the energy. But I don't even see where
19 we're getting the use of this energy. It seems like the big
20 majority of it is going to Canada. I think it would be
21 better if these just follow highways or something and get
22 away from all the residents.

23 Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you. Okay. Next.

1 MR. KIMBLE: Hi, my name is Gene Kimble.

2 MS. WACHHOLDER: Can you spell your name?

3 MR. KIMBLE: Kimble, K-i-m-b-l-e. I live at 36
4 Kane Kenney Road, Bedine, Ohio and that is also part of
5 Maple Land Farm, my wife and I own that farm also with my
6 mother and my nephew. This farm has been in the family
7 since 1884, 131 years. We're on our seventh generation on
8 this farm and I expect it to go to my grandchildren's
9 grandchildren and not without being disturbed.

10 Now, March 3rd we got a letter from Nexus asking
11 for surveys again, but then we find out, hey, they changed
12 the route, maybe it's not the proposed route anymore, maybe
13 there's a different route. Come back across the farm in
14 another location. My nephew and his mother's farm puts it
15 closer to our homes.

16 What about the setbacks? I mean, are all people
17 in Ohio or in these other states going to start having to
18 put up with this stuff? They need some serious thinking on
19 these high pressure lines because they're -- now, I'm also a
20 member of CORN and I support the Green City Township reroute
21 that we proposed.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you. Is there anybody
25 else that would like to speak? Okay. Please come on up.

1 MS. COSTELLO: My name is Faith Costello. I live
2 in Grafton Township. I'm concerned about the safety. What
3 has been a safe place to live will no longer be safe. A
4 transmission pipe of that magnitude will introduce a safety
5 risk to all who are within the blast zone and beyond.
6 Accidents do and have occurred.

7 Disaster management has not been addressed at
8 all. Emissions from compression stations along its path
9 will contaminate the very air we breathe. Emissions that
10 cause cancer, asthma, and the list goes on.

11 I'm also concerned about the environmental
12 issues. My property and the area surrounding it has been a
13 combination of wetland and farmland. My property is
14 partially a wetland area. A very important fact that has
15 had little or no attention is that the Loraine County
16 watershed area that traverses my property and those to the
17 east and west provides drainage for the agricultural areas
18 east of State Route 83, and storm drainage as well. The
19 route proposed is disturbingly close to this waterway. Any
20 disruption of this area will likely cause flooding of
21 property and homes, mine included. Any contamination will
22 go through this waterway, continue to the Black River and
23 ultimately into Lake Erie that supplies our drinking water.
24 This cannot be ignored.

25 Wildlife habitat, there is an abundance of

1 wildlife in our beautiful community. This is documented in
2 attached newspaper articles. It describes the threatened
3 species, long beach fern as well as the bobcat, bald eagle,
4 great horned owls, and native and migratory birds.
5 Everything from pileated woodpeckers, indigo buntings and
6 great horned owls have been seen on my property. The
7 eastern bluebirds have selected my backyard to raise two to
8 three clutches of young every year for the last ten years.
9 There are little red foxes, various kinds of turtles
10 lumbering across the yard to reach the watershed area and
11 the great blue herons searching for food in the waterway.
12 It is truly a priceless experience to live here.

13 This area should be protected and treasured, not
14 ravaged for profit.

15 Community issues, Grafton Township is a stable
16 and generational community. There are statistics that point
17 to the fact that 58 percent of land and homes are owned
18 outright. It is a place where generations of families want
19 to be. There is absolutely no benefit to anyone along the
20 path of this proposed Nexus pipeline. It offers only
21 destruction of property, safety and habitat. There are
22 people who are questioning whether they should sell now
23 while they have a chance to do so, and some who have already
24 put their homes on the market.

25 How much tax revenue will be lost when people

1 don't want to live here anymore?

2 Last and most important is the fact that this is
3 an abuse of our constitutional rights and total disregard
4 for our very lives.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you. Do we have anyone
7 else that would like to speak?

8 (No response.)

9 MS. WACHHOLDER: Going once? All right. Come
10 on up.

11 MR. LABIK: My name is Terry Labik. I'm a
12 91-year-old World War II veteran and I have a farm --

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. LABIK: -- I have a farm in Mallow Creek in
15 York Township. The northern back of the farm used to be a
16 railroad track. They did away with the railroad track, now
17 it's a bridal path, a bike path, a hiking path. Parallel to
18 that is already a Sunoco line and they're corresponding with
19 me all the time to clear for the brush and all that stuff.
20 The farm has been rented to the same farmer for over 50
21 years. And it's all tillable, all 82 acres and he does a
22 good job and he has farms further south.

23 Now, there's a lot of people coming in there
24 hunting and with the armaments they have today, who knows
25 what they're going to do. It's no trespassing signs all

1 over the place, but still.

2 So many -- not many times, but we've had a couple
3 of offers for real estate development for residences. How
4 is that going to affect -- who is going to buy a property
5 with like these people that have things running in their
6 backyards now? And that's valuable property. So the next
7 thing, the big companies are going to come in there and
8 maybe they're going to want to start fracking there. That's
9 all I've got.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. WACHHOLDER: Is there anybody else that would
12 like to speak? Come on up.

13 MR. ZOLLER: Ralph Zoller. I live in Portage
14 County, last name Z-o-l-l-e-r. I'm a member of Local 798.
15 I understand your guys' concern. But as a hands-on, I've
16 dealt with river crossings, stream crossings, they're always
17 protected. They've very -- FERC, you know, with the 42-inch
18 Nexus line they were on, I was with them a lot or around
19 them a lot.

20 I own a 112-acre farm. It's been in my family
21 since 1840 or 1860. I wouldn't have a problem with them
22 crossing it because I've been there hands on. The top soil
23 is removed. Everything is put back how it should be.
24 There's a lot of precautions and I do see in the community
25 as a business owner in our community where I'm from, the

1 town of Manoway, some of you might have heard of that, I've
2 watched other communities as I travel around the country
3 welding, they grow. I mean, it's amazing the little gas
4 stations how many people come in there and buy fuel, buy
5 snacks, buy this, the restaurants, everything. So it's not
6 going to destroy your community, which I'm sure a lot of you
7 think it will. But being on my side I've seen them change
8 communities for the better.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you. Is there anybody
12 else that would like to speak?

13 (No response.)

14 MS. WACHHOLDER: Anyone?

15 (No response.)

16 MS. WACHHOLDER: If nobody else would like to
17 speak, then we can conclude the meeting. We'll quickly
18 mention that again we have a FERC website and there's the
19 e-library link. So if you need to -- if you would like to
20 post any additional comments you could do that through there
21 as well as sending additional comments if you feel you would
22 like to do that.

23 We also have a link called e-subscription that
24 you can sign up to use an e-mail address to receive e-mails
25 each time a document is filed in the docket so you can stay

1 up to date on what's being added to the docket.

2 With that, on behalf of the Federal Energy
3 Regulatory Commission I want to thank you for coming tonight
4 and this meeting is adjourned.

5 Thank you.

6 (Whereupon, at 7:34 p.m., the meeting was
7 adjourned.)

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