



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 22, 2023

Tyson Slocum
Energy Program Director
Public Citizen, Inc.
215 Pennsylvania Ave SE
Washington, DC 20003

RE: State Department recommendation on Saguaro Connector Pipeline, L.L.C. (Saguaro Connector) for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Docket No. CP23-29-000

Dear Mr. Slocum,

Thank you for your December 6, 2023, letter to Secretary Blinken and for your interest in the interagency process for the deliberation of applications for cross-border infrastructure. The Secretary of State takes very seriously his role under E.O. 10485 (September 3, 1953), as amended by E.O. 12038 (February 3, 1978), to review requests from FERC to provide a recommendation on proposed Presidential permits for cross-border natural gas facilities at the international borders of the United States. The Secretary has also consistently stated the importance of openness and transparency in democratic institutions, including in the State Department, and we welcome the opportunity to discuss important matters with civil society.

With respect to the recommendation to FERC on the Saguaro Connector pipeline, the State Department considered the materials FERC and the applicant provided, including a Department of Energy November 21 Draft Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-2235). Among other considerations, the Department also took into account that additional natural gas pipeline takeaway capacity of the Saguaro Connector pipeline would contribute to reducing the venting and flaring, and thus the greenhouse gas emissions of associated natural gas in the Permian Basin, from where the natural gas

would originate. Taking all this into account, the Department provided a favorable recommendation on November 22. Additionally, all natural gas production will now be subject to the methane charge provisions contained in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-169) starting in 2024.

Thank you again for your letter and your interest in this matter. Should you require any further information or a follow up with your request for a meeting, please contact the Presidential Permit Coordinator in the Department of State's Bureau of Energy Resources, Marcus Lee. He can be reached at (202) 485-1522. Thank you for your interest in this process, and please do not hesitate to reach out with further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly Harrington', is written over the typed name and title.

Kimberly Harrington
Senior Bureau Official
Bureau of Energy Resources