

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 21, 2017

The Honorable Cheryl LaFleur  
Acting Chair  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Acting Chair LaFleur:

We are writing to request that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) ensure that there is robust opportunity for public comment and engagement during the scoping period for the proposed Jordan Cove LNG and Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline projects to be sited in Coos Bay, Oregon.

As you know, FERC has issued a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed Jordan Cove LNG export terminal and pipeline projects. We understand that FERC has scheduled three public meetings designed to seek comments on the scope of the environmental review of the Jordan Cove project and pipeline.

These public scoping meetings are scheduled to take place in Klamath, Douglas, and Coos counties -- three counties that would be directly affected by the Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline. However, the pipeline proposal is set to cross through an additional county, Jackson County, in Southern Oregon. Given the environmental and property rights concerns of local citizens, at a bare minimum FERC should schedule public scoping meetings in every county affected by the construction of this proposed natural gas pipeline and facility. In order to give members of the public in affected communities the opportunity to voice their perspective regarding the project, we strongly believe that FERC must hold additional town meetings.

We also strongly encourage FERC to engage in government-to-government consultations with all of the impacted federally recognized tribes. There are a number of federally recognized tribes that have ancestral ties to the lands in question and may therefore be impacted by this project. FERC must comply with Executive Order 13175 to ensure meaningful consideration of concerns raised by affected tribes, including impacts related to their cultural, historical, and anthropological resources.

As United States senators, we understand the importance of public discourse, which is a longstanding tradition in our state. Between the two of us, we have hosted more than 1,100 town meetings. These meetings are not always easy, but they are a necessary and critical component to directly engage our constituents and hear the concerns of Oregonians about issues affecting their communities.

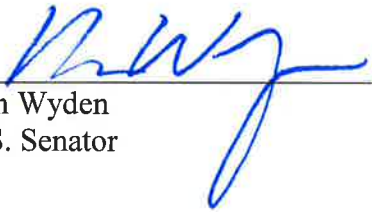
Therefore, we request these public scoping meetings be open and transparent, and afford the public the opportunity to ask questions and receive adequate answers. We are concerned that

meetings consisting of individual, one-on-one comments with a court reporter do not adequately respect the spirit of openness that Oregonians have come to expect from public meetings. It is crucial FERC does everything possible to engage all affected stakeholders in this process, including landowners and tribal communities. We strongly request that FERC provide for additional measures that increase the openness and transparency of the public scoping meetings.

The scoping notice also begins the clock on the public comment period, but the timeline of 30 days is only one-third of the standard comment period of 90 days for a project of this size and complexity. Given the amount of interest generated by this project in affected communities, many constituents have expressed concern that the short comment period does not allow enough time to assess the proposal, nor does it allow all members of the public adequate time to prepare their comments. Thus, we respectfully request that FERC extend the comment period to the standard duration.

We thank you for your consideration of our concerns, and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
U.S. Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
U.S. Senator