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**Environment & Youth Leaders Urge New Jersey Leadership
to Stop PennEast Pipeline Approvals from State & DRBC**

Trenton, NJ – In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that gives private companies eminent domain authority over state property rights for FERC approved natural gas infrastructure projects, environmental leaders, youth leaders, impacted residents and community members gathered in Trenton today at the statehouse to urge New Jersey elected leaders to use their power to prevent approval of the PennEast Pipeline.

The fracked gas PennEast Pipeline still needs New Jersey Clean Water Act approvals and approval from the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), in addition to other hurdles yet to be crossed. With the June 29, 2021 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *PennEast Pipeline Co. v. New Jersey* authorizing FERC certificate holders to condemn all necessary rights-of-way, whether owned by private parties or States, the way has been paved for PennEast to proceed with the New Jersey portion of its project and to urge swift action regarding outstanding needed permits and approvals from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, DRBC, and the U.S. Army Corps. At today's rally, opponents urged elected officials to exercise leadership, to reject state approvals for the project, to secure rejection of a needed DRBC docket, and to ensure no construction whatsoever advances for the project.

"It is past time for the decisionmakers of our region to fully reject the PennEast pipeline. To date, New Jersey has been the only consistent ally of communities on the ground concerned about the devastating consequences of PennEast for our environment, the climate crisis, future generations, and both people's rights and states' rights. We have come together today to urge New Jersey Governor Murphy to continue his leadership in the battle against PennEast and to use the immense federal, state and DRBC authorities available to him to continue to defend the safety, security, rights and natural resources of New Jersey, our region and future generations," **said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

"PennEast is trying to use every option they have to destroy preserved land, farmland, and state parks. Now that PennEast can use eminent domain to take state land, it's more important than ever that Governor Murphy steps up and stops this pipeline by denying its 401 Water Quality Permit," **said Taylor McFarland, Acting Director of the Sierra Club- NJ Chapter.** "The battle against PennEast is not

over. We have been fighting this pipeline for the past 6.5 years, and we will keep on fighting to make sure this unnecessary project will never be put in the ground!"

"The Sourland Conservancy is proud to work with our partner organizations and individual citizens to put an end to the long sorry tale of the PennEast pipeline. The Murphy Administration deserves credit for standing with us against this unnecessary project so far, and we ask that Governor Murphy use his authority and end this fight once and for all," **said Marylou Ferrara, Advocacy Chair, Sourland Conservancy.**

"Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope is stunned by the recent Supreme Court decision giving PennEast eminent domain over state property rights, taking away the right of New Jersey to protect environmentally sensitive lands. We urge state elected officials to do everything in their power to prevent this private business from confiscating property preserved and paid for by NJ taxpayers for an unneeded and unnecessary pipeline," **said Liz Peer, Indivisible Lambertville New Hope Environment Team Lead.**

"Gov. Murphy's Administration has repeatedly opposed the construction of the PennEast pipeline based on the eminent domain tactics by a private pipeline company to condemn preserved open space. With the recent loss at the Supreme Court, the Murphy Administration should follow the lead of other states like New York and Connecticut and prepare to use the full powers of the Clean Water Act to reject the pipeline. PennEast will be a disaster for water quality and we urge Gov. Murphy to use all the powers of the Clean Water Act to stop this pipeline," **said Doug O'Malley, director of Environment New Jersey.**

"The young people of our state are tired of having our futures put on the line and our planet's health threatened just for the sake of fossil fuel profits. The proposed PennEast pipeline must be shut down, once and for all," **said Rey Watson, Sunrise Hunterdon.**

"As we enter into another summer of record-breaking heat waves, wildfires, droughts, floods, and hurricanes, NJ has the moral and scientific obligation to reject all new sources of climate pollutants," **said Eric Benson, Clean Water Action, NJ Campaigns Director.** "As one of the five votes on the Delaware River Basin Commission, Governor Murphy can demonstrate his climate leadership and legal authority by closing the file on the PennEast pipeline once and for all."

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