DeFazio urges affected landowners to contact FERC with concerns and questions

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WASHINGTON, DC—U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio received a response from federal regulators to a letter he sent expressing concerns about the proposed route of the Pacific Connector natural gas pipeline. DeFazio urged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to "require rerouting of the Pacific connector pipeline in a way that avoids private property and eminent domain seizures, and instead uses existing transmission rights of way on public lands." DeFazio also wrote that he is "opposed to using eminent domain to seize private property to facilitate construction of the pipeline."

FERC Chairman Joseph T. Kelliher's letter of response provided no guarantee that private property rights will be respected. Under the Natural Gas Act, FERC has the sole authority to approve a route for the pipeline and can authorize seizures of private property along the pipeline route. However, he did state his staff will be responsive to "reasonable right-of-way adjustments or other accommodations."

Landowners concerned about the pipeline should contact FERC with their concerns. FERC can be contacted toll-free at 1-866-208-3372 or by e-mail at customer@ferc.gov. More information on how to get involved in this process can be found on the FERC website at: http://www.ferc.gov/industries/lng/enviro/pub-involve.asp.

The text of Chairman Kelliher's response to DeFazio is below.

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

[redacted]