

Saturday, October 22nd 2016

This past weekend, Kate Ruof, Conservation Chair of the Sierra Club Lancaster Group delivered these remarks at [a press event](#) in Conestoga organized by Lancaster Against Pipelines

The Sierra Club opposes the construction of the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline. We opposed it when the project was first announced and it threatened Shenks Ferry and Tucquan Glen -- two of Lancaster County's most unique, beautiful, and environmentally valuable places. Now that the proposed route appears to have moved away from these two areas, we continue to oppose the project, as we will continue to oppose any and all pipeline development in the state

If FERC approves this pipeline, it is requiring ordinary citizens to shoulder the burden of lost property and property value, irreversible environmental damage, and, in case of catastrophic explosion, their lives and the lives of their families

I live in Conestoga, and I have seen personally how the threat of this proposed pipeline has already irreparably damaged this community. This town is no longer a close knit laid back community. Instead, it is a nucleus of anxiety, anger, confusion and fear. Thankfully, we have discovered deep reserves of strength, loyalty, and determination -- but how much worse will things get? And how many times will this nightmare be repeated in other towns along the proposed route?

I am proud to be a member of both Lancaster Against Pipelines and the Sierra Club. It would be easy for the Sierra Club to count the route change that moved the pipeline away from Shenks Ferry and Tucquan Glen as a victory and walked away. We have chosen to continue to fight.

It would be easier for many of the members of Lancaster Against Pipelines to lobby for a route change that would move the pipeline out of their own backyards and into someone else's. We have chosen to continue our opposition to the entire project.

The current proposed route takes the pipeline within 300 feet of my front porch -- not on our property but well within the incineration zone should things go wrong. I also choose to continue the fight against the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline and I will oppose it on any route.

I refuse to give in to a process that evaluates the lives of our neighbors and the value of their land in order to determine who among us will suffer. Instead, I stand with the Sierra Club and Lancaster Against Pipelines and I say NO.