

Steven J Votrain, SAINT LOUIS, MO.

My name is Steven Votrain in St. Louis MO. I am a retired engineer. I worked designing pipelines, pump stations and instrumentation - measurement control systems for petrochemical, product, crude and CO2 pipelines from Houston to Chicago, Colorado to West Texas. I also worked in Economic Evaluation in the late 1970's evaluating our systems rate of return under ICC regulations just as

FERC was going to take over. We had input for lobbyists in Washington as to our comments on the FERC's new rate of return equations. We used IBM mainframe computers to gather real time operating data and analyzed the effect of various

equations on our bottom line rate of return.

I mention all this because I can not imagine FERC being sued by some Washington

Group that would result in shutting down a critical operating natural gas pipeline serving a major metropolitan area. ESPECIALLY when FERC approved this

pipeline to be built and operate.

As you know, pipelines are by far the safest and most efficient way of transporting crude oil and all the refined products coming out of the distilling process, including the light ends used to make plastic. Natural gas pipelines

are critical for the US economy to work for EVERYONES BENEFIT! Note how much the agriculture industry is affected by Natural gas usage and cost.

So please add my name to the list of people supporting the continued operation of the Spire STL Pipeline. Winter is coming on along with inflation of staple goods and gasoline affecting EVERYONE! Farmers need to know the impact of higher costs of pesticides and fertilizers NOW in order to plan for 2022 profitability. This is absolutely the WRONG TIME to be shutting down any pipeline except for legitimate safety or environmental concerns that usually can be mitigated successfully.

I assume that POLITICS are behind the effort to shutdown a pipeline that only contributes to the well-being of EVERYONE using natural gas - the cleaner energy

source available in large quantity.

I will be contacting elected representatives in Missouri and Illinois on this issue. Please do not allow a very little tail to wag a very big dog to the detriment of society as a whole.

Thank you for considering my statement. I have a pretty good idea that many many people; rich, poor, and the vast middle-class would and should agree with these sentiments - regardless political affiliations!

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