

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 6, 2023

Chairman Willie L. Phillips  
Commissioner James Danly  
Commissioner Allison Clements  
Commissioner Mark C. Christie  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

**Re: Docket No. CP22-2-000 GTN XPress Project**

Dear Chairman Phillips and Commissioners Danly, Clements, and Christie:

We write to you today urging the Commission to act on the application from TC Energy for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Gas Transmission Northwest (GTN) XPress project. The GTN XPress project is currently the most delayed project at the Commission, having received its Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) almost eleven months ago. This delay has created significant uncertainty for energy users in the states and districts we represent and will likely subject them to higher priced energy alternatives. It is unreasonable for a project like GTN XPress, which meets all the Commission's criteria and impacts no landowners, to be subject to such lengthy delays. It is time for FERC to act.

The GTN XPress project would increase the GTN system's capacity by 150,000 dekatherms per day, bringing much needed natural gas supplies to communities in northern Idaho, eastern Washington, central and eastern Oregon, and northern California. The increase in supply will improve reliability and keep energy costs low for our constituents. The project is supported by binding precedent agreements with three anchor shippers for 100% of the capacity for terms of more than 30 years. This clearly demonstrates the need for the project under the longstanding FERC certificate policy statement as well as congressional intent under the Natural Gas Act.

Further, according to FERC's FEIS the project would not have significant environmental impacts. Several comments have been filed referencing Oregon and Washington's laws and legislative goals for reducing GHG emissions. However, as noted in FERC's order on Tennessee Gas, individual state climate policies cannot dictate Commission decisions when making a public interest determination under federal law.

Regarding GHG emissions more generally, increasing natural gas use in electricity generation has already helped the nation achieve significant reductions in GHG emissions, with electric sector emissions dropping 32% between 2005 and 2019 largely driven by the transition from coal to natural gas. Natural gas use can actually help states like Oregon, which currently relies on coal for 25% of its electricity generation, meet carbon reduction goals by incorporating cleaner burning fuels like natural gas into the electric grid. As renewable generation continues to grow,

natural gas will continue to be a critical part of our energy mix serving to back up intermittent resources such as wind and solar.

This unprecedented delay is adding undue uncertainty for our constituents' energy certainty and diverging from FERC precedent as well as the intent of the Natural Gas Act. The Commission should provide certainty to providers and consumers across the Northwest, and issue their decision on this important project as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Lori Chavez-DeRemer  
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz  
Member of Congress



Mike Simpson  
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress



Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMaifa  
Member of Congress



Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



James E. Risch  
United States Senator