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August 23, 2016

United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Monongalia County Justice Center-Field Hearing  
August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016

By Chad Earl  
Director of Marketing and Business Development  
ORDERS Construction Company, Inc.

Distinguished Committee Members-

Hello and Welcome to Morgantown, West Virginia. Thank you for this invitation as it is truly an honor to come before you today to discuss my perspective and how important the energy industry and infrastructure development is to my family, our company, and all of West Virginia.

Let me begin by saying I'm a proud and lifelong West Virginian. I grew up in Grantsville, a rural community in Calhoun County and started helping my dad take care of oil and gas wells at the age of 12 years old. I graduated from Glenville State College and worked my way through college as a pipeliner and environmental technician for local service companies. When I think about it, the energy industry, particularly the oil and gas industry, has had a huge and positive impact on my life. It gave my family the ability to support me and my brothers. Now it is giving me, and many others like me, the ability to support their families and have promising careers. I'm active in several professional organizations related to the Construction, Manufacturing, and Energy Industries. All of which are effected by reliable infrastructure that we will discuss today.

As I said, I am a native West Virginian. In fact, I share many of the same opinions and beliefs about West Virginia that I've heard Senator Moore and Senator Manchin touch on several different occasions. I'm sure they will agree with me when I say the beauty of our state is immeasurable, our natural resources are abundant, but it's our people, from every corner of the state, which is our greatest strength.

**Building Better Since 1964**



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Our people are intelligent, hardworking, and passionate about their communities, and our heritage of belonging to one of the highest energy producing states in the Nation. We want to live and prosper here at home. We want the opportunity for our children to have healthy and productive lives here should they choose to do so.

In order for this to happen we need to create an economic environment that allows for growth. We now have this opportunity with the natural gas industry. To be clear, Shale gas is revitalizing West Virginia's economy.

I serve as the Director of Business Development for ORDERS Construction Company. We're a family owned business and since 1964 we have expanded from a bridge builder in our early days to a trusted, reputable, and dependable construction company that spans many segments of the economy. Our markets include state and federal highways, manufacturing facilities, chemical and Industrial complexes, water and waste water plants, and energy companies.

Our group employs approximately 400 people with very good jobs and most salaries are above the national average. Because of the increased activity in the oil and gas fields we have been able to not only retain the labor force that supports us, but consistently add jobs and grow our business. This is more than important, it is vital to our local economy and the families that live here. Especially when you look at the decline of the coal industry and the economic devastation of southern West Virginia. I can point to over 50 positions in our company that have been created to support the shale industry.

We can continue growth only if the energy industry remains strong because it impacts all business in West Virginia. It effects our tax base for roads and schools. It effects the chemical and manufacturing industries we work in for raw materials and energy supplies. It impacts other small business such as restaurants, gas stations, hotels, civic groups, school bands and sports teams.

It is no secret that in West Virginia, our communities prosper when the energy industry is robust. Expanding our energy infrastructure will create jobs. It strengthen communities, and help attract manufacturing to the region. Above all else, it will give this region of the country hope that our elected leaders are working with us, and not the activists who have dedicated their agendas to hinder

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progress as they work each day to put small family owned companies like ours out of business. Each state in the country makes use of its resources; Massachusetts – fishing; the Midwest – farming in flat, rich soils; Florida – attracting tourists to its beaches and warm weather, etc. WV can harvest the massive gas deposits under it for the benefit of its people for decades to come. However it won't happen without the support of government policies that allow it to be done and done properly.

Pipelines and energy production will continue to make us more secure from unstable regions of the world. The pipelines we build are more than pipeline – they are highways that deliver a required resource to end-users, families, manufacturers, other small businesses, as well as schools and hospitals. They are the safest and most economical long term transportation option.

Senators, make no mistake: shale is revitalizing West Virginia. Shale is providing small, family-owned businesses like ours with opportunity and we need the energy infrastructure to move this clean-burning resource to market, which will continue to enhance our energy security and independence.

The men and women of West Virginia are industry professionals and our history is that of an energy producing state. Please help our people strengthen our state economy and help us produce and transport the energy our region, and country, so desperately need.

Thank you for the opportunity to come before you and testify today.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Earl", written in a cursive style.

Chad Earl  
Director of Business Development

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