## **GREATER ST. LOUIS INC.**

July 29, 2021

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20426

The Honorable Richard Glick, Chairman The Honorable Neil Chatterjee, Commissioner The Honorable James Danly, Commissioner The Honorable Allison Clements, Commissioner The Honorable Mark C. Christie, Commissioner

## Re: <u>Spire STL Pipeline LLC Temporary Certificate Application in Emergency</u> Docket No. CP17-40-000

Dear Chairman Glick and Commissioners:

On behalf of Greater St. Louis, Inc., I write today to express our support for the Spire STL Pipeline LLC's (the "STL Pipeline") certificate application at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") so that the STL Pipeline can continue to operate on an interim basis. Granting the temporary certificate at this time is essential to secure the consistent supply of natural gas that is critical to our region.

Greater St. Louis, Inc., brings together the business community to promote inclusive economic growth and create jobs in the St. Louis metropolitan region. Greater St. Louis, Inc.'s investors employ more than 220,000 people within the metropolitan area and generate a combined global revenue of more than \$1.16 trillion. Our members are among the more than 650,000 residents and businesses in the St. Louis region that have access to reliable, affordable, and clean natural gas service because of the STL Pipeline.

When Storm Uri hit the central United States in February 2021, the STL Pipeline ensured our region had access to reliable, affordable energy, saving ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars in the process when compared to other regions. Any scenario in which the STL Pipeline is forced to shut down would immediately increase the chances of detrimental impacts to vulnerable populations in the St. Louis area and the regional economy as it emerges from the pandemic. New and costly infrastructure alternatives to meet needs currently fulfilled by the STL Pipeline simply cannot be completed before the 2021-2022 winter season. It is particularly alarming that without the STL Pipeline, gas may not be available to individual homes and businesses in the St. Louis area when average daily temperatures approach 9 degrees Fahrenheit. This puts businesses, jobs, and personal safety in our region in grave peril.

While the U.S. Congress is consumed with how to pay for much-needed infrastructure improvements across the nation, now is not the time to remove critical infrastructure assets, like the STL Pipeline, from service in a manner that could threaten lives and cost jobs. It is imperative for FERC to do what it can to avoid such risks and approve the STL Pipeline's application.

## **GREATER ST. LOUIS INC.**

Thank you for your continued leadership in support of the safe and environmentally responsible development of reliable U.S. energy infrastructure and for your timely consideration of this matter.

Please contact me if you would like any further information.



Document	Content(s)
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