

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: Spire STL Pipeline LLC Temporary Certificate Application in Emergency Docket No. CP17-40-000

Dear Chairman Glick and Commissioners,

As the President of the Missouri Retailers Association, I am writing in support of Spire STL Pipeline, LLC's (STL Pipeline) July 26, 2021, temporary emergency certificate application before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Since 1933, our organization has worked to advance and protect businesses, establish cost-saving programs, and develop policies to help retail businesses and the customers they serve. Critical infrastructure, like the STL Pipeline, helps our members and forwards our mission to empower businesses involved in the retail industry by providing affordable natural gas reliably.

Retailing involves everything from manufacturing, transportation, marketing and wholesale, and our members range from international corporations to small businesses. They have a variety of energy needs, and, thanks to the STL Pipeline, those needs are met on a consistent basis. Undoubtedly, businesses and residents in eastern Missouri benefit from the cost-effective natural gas provided by this pipeline. Our members are still recovering from the pandemic, and they do not need any additional challenges that may arise because of a disruption in their natural gas service.

Most importantly, the STL Pipeline never failed during Winter Storm Uri in the extreme cold like other pipelines around the country, which guaranteed businesses and residents never lost energy to their homes or places of work. The pipeline saved businesses and residents \$300 million because there were not unforeseen spikes in demand. For retailers across the country, the holiday season, which are coincidently some of the coldest months, is the most important time of the year. Our members cannot afford to shut down their stores because they do not have the

ability to keep employees and shoppers warm. The loss of the STL Pipeline could have serious ramifications for our members and their ability to keep their doors open this winter.

We support the STL Pipeline's temporary emergency certificate application so that my member businesses can avoid potentially catastrophic gas shortages in the coming months and through the winter season. I ardently await the FERC's response to this application.

Sincerely,

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David Overfelt President Missouri Retailers Association <u>dave@moretailers.com</u> 573.636.2524