

**Board of Directors**

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Executive Director, CAAAB

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LLC

November 19, 2021

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

The Honorable Richard Glick, Chairman
The Honorable James Dantly, 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,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Center for the Acceleration of African American Business (CAAAB). We strongly support the Spire STL Pipeline's temporary emergency certificate with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). This pipeline is critical infrastructure used by thousands of businesses throughout the St. Louis region. Removing this pipeline could lead to severe consequences for the local economy.

CAAAB is a non-profit civic organization established to support the growth and development of businesses owned by minority populations, primarily African Americans. Our goal is to advance economic development in St. Louis and Metro East Illinois regions by elevating the status of African American businesses and their workforce. Maintaining the continued operation of the Spire STL Pipeline and the energy it provides to the community is vital to helping our organization achieve its mission.

The STL Pipeline has been a reliable source of clean natural gas since it started operating in 2019. The pipeline has ensured local, minority-owned businesses have had adequate supplies of natural gas to keep their businesses open during the winter months. This reliability is important to the small businesses we support because any service disruption could lead to closures, which can have a severe economic impact on these owners.

Any unexpected shutdown can be detrimental to small business owners on a good year, on a bad year they can be catastrophic. It's safe to say 2020-2021 has been a bad year for small businesses who were forced to close during the pandemic. Many of these businesses are still trying to recover from the damaging effects of the pandemic. I am worried that this additional burden could cause lasting damage to the community.

Keeping the Spire STL Pipeline operational is not only good for St. Louis residents and its economy, but it is also good for the small businesses who continue to need our support. Please consider the impact closing the STL Pipeline will have on local small businesses and grant the temporary emergency certification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddie G. Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eddie G. Davis, President and
Executive Director

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