

**JIM STRUZZI, MEMBER
62nd LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

INDIANA OFFICE
550 Philadelphia Street
Indiana, PA 15701
Phone: 724-465-0220
Fax: 724-465-0221

**REPUBLICAN CHAIR,
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

CAPITOL OFFICE
P.O. Box 202062
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2062
Phone: 717-705-7173
Fax: 717-705-1947

RepStruzzi.com
jstruzzi@pahousegop.com
Facebook.com/RepStruzzi



January 16, 2026

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Northwest Regional Office (NWRO)
Clean Water Program
230 Chestnut Street
Meadville, PA 16335

RE: Proposed Consent Decree Between DEP and Keystone-Conemaugh Projects, LLC (Key-Con) Court of Common Pleas of Indiana County

To Whom It May Concern:

As State Representative for Pennsylvania's 62nd Legislative District, encompassing Indiana County and key energy assets such as the Conemaugh Generating Station, and as Republican Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, I am writing to express my unwavering support for the proposed Consent Decree between the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Keystone-Conemaugh Projects, LLC (Key-Con). This decree offers a sensible and equitable solution that upholds environmental standards under the Clean Streams Law and federal Effluent Limitations Guidelines (ELGs), all while sustaining vital baseload energy production essential to our region's prosperity.

The Keystone and Conemaugh Generating Stations have long served as pillars of strength for Pennsylvania's energy landscape and local economies. Together, these facilities generate approximately \$5 million in annual property taxes, directly funding our schools, municipal services, and community initiatives. They provide high-quality employment for more than 1,000 individuals on-site and support countless additional jobs in related industries like coal extraction, logistics, and equipment servicing. Allowing these plants to operate responsibly past 2028 through this decree prevents the severe economic fallout from early closures, protecting the livelihoods that define our rural communities.

Beyond their economic contributions, Key-Con's 3.4 GW of coal-fired capacity is indispensable to the PJM grid, delivering dependable, dispatchable power that has proven resilient in extreme conditions, such as during Winter Storms Uri and Elliott when coal resources ramped up to meet surging demand while other sources faltered. Yet, even more critically, these stations are lifelines for the families and communities they serve - bolstering the tax base that sustains public services, preserving blue-collar jobs that offer stability and dignity, and fostering economic vitality in Armstrong and Indiana Counties where such opportunities are paramount. Without them, we risk hollowing out the heart of these areas, displacing workers and eroding the foundations of family life in regions already facing challenges.

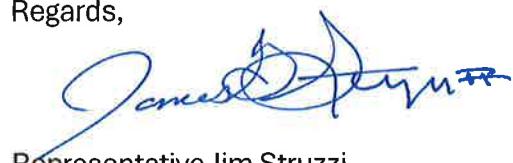
This agreement comes at a crucial juncture as PJM Interconnection grapples with mounting reliability concerns. The December 2025 Base Residual Auction secured just 134,479 MW of unforced capacity, missing reliability thresholds by 6,623 MW and resulting in a suboptimal 14.8% reserve margin - far from PJM's 20% goal. With escalating demands from data centers and the swift decommissioning of reliable generation, alongside warnings from NERC's 2025 Reliability Risk Priorities Report about potential blackouts, Key-Con's weather-hardened output is more vital than ever.

The Consent Decree achieves a thoughtful equilibrium by mandating clear ELG compliance timelines, including Bottom Ash system enhancements by 2026 and FGD wastewater treatments by 2028, while providing the adaptability needed to shift away from a rigid 2028 shutdown. This approach dovetails seamlessly with Pennsylvania's recent decision to exit RGGI - a policy I opposed as an undue financial strain on facilities like these - thereby reducing costs, enhancing competitiveness, and opening doors for growth in sectors like data centers and manufacturing.

I strongly encourage DEP and the Court to approve this decree without delay. It will protect employment, strengthen our energy grid, and advance environmental goals in a way that avoids needless plant retirements, affirming Pennsylvania's commitment to a comprehensive energy policy that serves all stakeholders.

Thank you for considering this important matter.

Regards,



Representative Jim Struzzi
Republican Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives, District 62

cc: Honorable Jessica Shirley Secretary
PA Department of Environmental Protection