

Natural Gas Pipeline Needed To Serve Growing Area

To the Editor:

A number of recent letters and news reports have questioned the local impact of the proposed Midwestern Gas pipeline extension.

There should be no confusion about the fact that this pipeline will deliver natural gas to the homes and businesses of Sumner and Trousdale counties.

Nashville Gas, through its parent company, has made a long-term commitment to the project for one reason: They need the gas to serve a rapidly growing area in Middle Tennessee. Sumner County is one of the top-10 fastest growing markets in the state. Experts project that the exponential growth will continue. As a community grows, so must the infrastructure that serves it.

As much as 80 percent, or approximately 96 million cubic feet of natural gas per day, of the natural gas flowing through this pipeline will serve the residential, commercial and industrial customers of Nashville Gas, including those in Sumner and Trousdale counties.

Natural gas is a safe, efficient, and clean energy source, used to heat and cool homes, businesses and schools, to produce electricity and in industrial applications such as plastics and textile manufacturing. You use it to cook your meals, heat your water and run your appliances. Because it burns so clean, it cuts down on smog and greenhouse gases. Demand is expected to increase more than 40 percent over the next 20 years, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Underground pipelines are clearly the safest and most efficient method of delivery. Pipeline safety records far surpass those of highway, rail and other natural gas transportation alternatives, and the efficiency keeps rates affordable. Midwestern Gas uses state-of-the-art technology to monitor its pipelines, and safety is our number one concern.

Some residents have lamented that the pipeline's location on their land will preclude them from developing their land. This is not entirely true. While a 50-foot easement would be restricted from most development, every bit of land around the easement could certainly be built upon. In fact, in other locations, many developers have taken advantage of the easement as a green space or buffer zone, an element typically included in residential developments.

Landowners might very well find that infrastructure improvements—such as better roads, power grids, municipal water lines, and natural gas delivery systems—make their land far more attractive to developers. The point I'm trying to make is that projects of this nature are a necessity of growth.

Please know that these plans are well-conceived to minimize impact while ensuring that the necessary energy infrastructure is put in place to support a rapidly growing area. Thank you for your consideration.

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