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WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

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PATRICIA F. GORSKI
The Clerk of the
County Board of Legislators

August 8, 2002

Honorable Donald L. Evans
Secretary of Commerce
Office of the Secretary
Room 5516
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th & Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The attached Resolution, Resolution 138-2002, was unanimously adopted by the Westchester County Board of Legislators in session on August 5, 2002.

Very truly yours,

Patricia F. Gorski
The Clerk of the County
Board of Legislators and
Chief of Staff

/pfg
Attachment

THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

*Sponsored by: HON. THOMAS J. ABINANTI, HON. GEORGE OROS and
HON. RICHARD G. WISHNIE*

WHEREAS, the New York Department of State (DOS) thoroughly considered the proposal by Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation to construct the Millennium Pipeline, a new natural gas pipeline, to cross the Hudson River at Haverstraw Bay; and

WHEREAS, the DOS rejected the proposal concluding that such a route was not consistent with the policies of the New York State Coastal Management Program; and

WHEREAS, the proposal which would involve blasting and dredging the River would have injurious effects on the fish and wildlife habitat, in general, and on Haverstraw Bay, in particular; and

WHEREAS, the proposal could have injurious effects on the health and safety of local communities, in general, and, would conflict with the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program of the Village of Croton on Hudson, in particular; and

WHEREAS, the proposal does not adequately address concerns about possible contamination of the New York City drinking water supply and could potentially adversely affect 40% of the New York City Watershed; and

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) revoked the site access permit of the pipeline's sponsors to explore building through the Catskill Aqueduct on the basis of post September 11, 2001 security studies by the Army Corps of Engineers that determined that the proposed crossing posed inherent security risks; and

WHEREAS, viable alternatives that would reduce the health, safety and security risks inherent in the crossing plan and route through Westchester have not been explored or have been previously rejected; and

WHEREAS, the Westchester County Board of Legislators recognizes the New York State Department of State's objections in rejecting the proposed route for the Millennium Pipeline across the Hudson River.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Westchester County Board of Legislators urges the United States Department of Commerce to conduct a public hearing in Westchester County before making any decision on Columbia Gas' appeal of the Department of State decision; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Westchester County Board of Legislators urges the United States Department of Commerce to sustain

the decision of the New York State Department of State unless and until all reasonable concerns are addressed; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board directs its clerk to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation, the Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce, Westchester Federal and State elected officials and all other relevant parties, so that the content and intent of this resolution be widely known.