



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF NEW JERSEY

## **LWVNJ Condemns the Pinelands Commission Pipeline Decision**

March 2017: The League of Women Voters of New Jersey strongly opposes the recent decision by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission to permit the dangerous and unnecessary South Jersey Gas Pipeline route through the Pinelands National Reserve. This pipeline risks the contamination of drinking water, the devastation of critical habitats, as well as violates protections that are meant to preserve one of the most ecologically unique areas in the world.

The Pinelands National Reserve is an internationally recognized and protected area. The protected area lies over the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer, which holds an incredible 17 trillion gallons of pure water. The construction of the pipeline will result in a substantial risk to the drinking water purity of the Aquifer and also threatens both public health and local ecology.

Further, the pipeline will demolish significant amounts of forest areas, causing irreparable damage such as compaction of soils and increased erosion and runoff to waterways. The Pinelands National Reserve is home to species that do not live anywhere else in the world. These critical habitats are likely to be destroyed by the construction of this pipeline.

Aside from the ecological damage that will occur, the natural gas that the pipeline will transport will not serve the needs of the Pinelands residents, which is a clear violation of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). The CMP is a set of rules that guide land-use, development and natural resource protection programs within the Pinelands area. The CMP permits public service infrastructure only when it is “intended to primarily serve the needs of the Pinelands.” However, the energy that will be created at the B.L. England Generation Station, which is where the pipeline ends, will only serve communities outside the Pinelands Region.

The SJG pipeline places public health and the environment in serious jeopardy. The League of Women Voters of New Jersey strongly opposes the pipeline. Our government must ensure the health and safety of our residents as well as preserve the ecological balance present in the Pinelands National Reserve.