

**FRANK K. SKARTADOS**  
Assemblyman 104<sup>th</sup> District

Dutchess, Orange, and  
Ulster Counties

**THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK**



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December 14, 2015

Executive Director Bob Megna  
Administrative Headquarters  
NYS Thruway Authority  
200 Southern Blvd.  
P.O. Box 189  
Albany, NY 12201-0189

Dear Executive Director Megna,

The Pilgrim Pipeline project has the potential to adversely affect countless communities, residents and the environment. Because of this, I urge you to designate the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) as the lead agency for the review of this project.

As the representative for several towns that the pipeline could potentially impact and as an interested party in the State Environmental Quality Review process, I am deeply concerned about the risks to the region's water supply, farms and businesses. Any spill caused by the Pilgrim Pipeline would create an environmental disaster and a serious health hazard. The risks to these communities far outweigh any benefits.

Additionally, I am concerned about the ability of our emergency services to handle such a spill. They would require extensive training and additional equipment to contain any emergency.

The hazards posed by the Pilgrim Pipeline make the DEC the best agency to review the project proposal.

DEC is currently leading the review of hazards connected with crude oil transported by train. Additionally, the DEC is tasked with mitigating climate change and ensuring that New York meets the objectives set in the 2015 New York State Energy Plan. The Pilgrim Pipeline should be assessed in the perspective of the state's energy goals and the Energy Plan.

Further, because the proposed routes go over private lands and businesses outside of the Thruway Authority's right-of-way, assessment of the project's consequences should be done by a separate agency.

The potential risks to the region are significant and require serious evaluation; we cannot gamble with our safety.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 845-562-0888 or [skartadosf@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:skartadosf@assembly.state.ny.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Skartados". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and "S".

Frank Skartados  
Member of Assembly  
104th District