

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 - \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PENNEAST PIPELINE PROJECT,  
AS CURRENTLY PROPOSED

**WHEREAS**, The City of Bethlehem, Lehigh and Northampton counties, Pennsylvania (the "City") manages its municipal water supply through the Bethlehem Authority, a duly incorporated municipal authority (the "Authority"), that provides water for City residents, businesses, and portions of ten (10) surrounding municipalities, including all of the City of Bethlehem, the Borough of Fountain Hill, the Borough of Freemansburg and portions of Allen Township, Bethlehem Township, East Allen Township, Hanover Township - Lehigh County, Hanover Township - Northampton County, Lower Saucon Township, Salisbury Township, and Upper Saucon Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's sole water supply originates from surface sources within the Bethlehem Watershed (defined below), including two reservoirs that are each located in Carbon County, Pennsylvania, the Wild Creek Reservoir and the Penn Forest reservoir (together, the "Reservoirs"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Reservoirs are surrounded by approximately 12,500 acres of protected watershed land owned by the Authority (together with the Reservoirs, the "Bethlehem Watershed"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has placed significant portions of Bethlehem Watershed land in a conservation easement in order to minimize development, earn operating capital through carbon credit sales, and to protect the pristine nature of the City's water by preserving and safeguarding the headwaters and feeder streams in the Bethlehem Watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's water flows from the Reservoirs through two large underground transmission mains that extend south and link to the water distribution system in and around the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the water from the Reservoirs serves approximately 115,000 consumers in and around the City, with an average usage of approximately 12 million gallons per day; and

**WHEREAS**, the PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC ("PennEast") proposes the construction of a new pipeline and related facilities (together, the "Pipeline") for the transmission and delivery of approximately one billion cubic feet of natural gas per day; and

**WHEREAS**, as currently proposed, the Pipeline will be operational on or about November 1, 2017, will be approximately one hundred and eight (108) miles in length, and will consist of a thirty-six inch (36") diameter pipe crossing parts of Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton, and Bucks Counties in Pennsylvania, and Hunterdon and Mercer Counties in New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 7, 2014, PennEast requested that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") initiate an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") pre-filing process; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 10, 2014, the Director of the Office of Energy Projects for FERC approved PennEast's use of the pre-filing review process and PennEast intends to file a formal application with FERC on or before July, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, as currently proposed, the Pipeline will pass through environmentally sensitive Bethlehem Watershed land protected by a conservation easement and will run parallel to and ultimately cross over the City's water transmission mains in the area of PA Route 209 in Carbon County; and

