

**Statement of U.S. Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Public Hearing
Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line (TrAIL) Construction Application
Washington County
September 19, 2007**

I would like to express my objection at this time to the proposed construction of the Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line, known as TrAIL.

Over the past few months I have heard opposition from countless constituents through letters and phone calls to my offices and through a 6,500 signature petition. I have also been contacted by numerous local and stated elected leaders who all have serious reservations about the necessity for the proposed high-voltage line. It is at the urging of my constituents and elected leaders that I feel compelled to weigh in on their behalf.

While I support the goal of providing reliable electricity to consumers, I remain concerned that the benefits of TrAIL do not go to Pennsylvania but that TrAIL instead delivers maximum benefits for reliability to other states. Pennsylvania already provides an invaluable service by supplying power to states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic that do not generate enough power to meet their demand. Pennsylvania should not be forced to shoulder the further burden of providing the means for reliability to those states. I oppose any proposal that would ultimately make Pennsylvania ratepayers and communities pay the price for providing electricity to other states.

Residents of Washington and Greene Counties have made clear their opposition to a high voltage power line based on negative impacts to property values, electric rates, and quality of life. These are serious concerns that warrant serious consideration before any decision is made.

In addition, I think that any effort to increase reliability in our region should complement the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's goals to increase the use of renewable power sources and reduce greenhouse gas and other air emissions. I hope that the Public Utility Commission will carefully balance the plans of our state for our energy future as the TrAIL application is considered.

In closing, I urge the Public Utility Commission to take into consideration the impacts of TrAIL on communities in Washington and Greene Counties and reject the construction application at this time.