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Board of **Directors**  August 15, 2019

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**Executive** Director

Deborah White

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Dear Commissioners,

We are writing in opposition to the proposed construction of the LG&E natural gas pipeline through Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest. The construction of a pipeline through this conservation area is not in the public interest. The site has a conservation easement established under federal guidelines identifying land that has "significant public benefit" under Treasury Regulation Section 1.170A-14. Construction of a pipeline in this area would damage this natural area and violate this established agreement that recognizes its significant public benefit.

This type of construction will destroy the integrity and quality of this forest habitat. The disruption of the natural flora and fauna will make it vulnerable to invasion by non-native species and degrade its value as a wildlife corridor. The importance of this site to rare and endangered species, some of these protected under federal regulation, will also be degraded by this pipeline construction as well as by the recurring maintenance of this line.

Please also consider the precedence and the message that approval of this construction sends to dedicated landowners who have worked to establish conservation easements, a gift of enduring environmental stability and health, across Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Deborah White **Executive Director** 

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