

Lebanon County Commissioners  
William E. Ames, Jo Ellen Litz, and Robert J. Phillips  
Room 207, Municipal Building  
400 South 8th Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042-6794



*Lebanon Pipeline Awareness*

February 7, 2019

Honorable Commissioners,

We write to make you aware that seven Lebanon County businesses have taken a significant economic hit – to the tune of more than \$226,000 in lost revenue – as a result of the lawsuit filed by Williams/Transco of Tulsa, OK, builder of the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline, against Welded Construction of Perrysburg, Ohio – which also worked on the Mariner East pipeline project in Lebanon County – and Welded Construction’s resulting bankruptcy filing, *to wit*:

**Bankruptcy claims of businesses in Lebanon County against Welded Construction, L.P., Case No. 18-12378.**

1. Claim No. 22, for \$10,608.00, by WT Paving and Sealing, LLC, 1732 Thompson Ave, Lebanon, PA 17046. Filed 11/02/2018.
2. Claim No. 127 for \$48,122.48, by Jono Ace Hardware, 10781 Allentown Blvd, Jonestown, PA 17038. Filed 12/24/2018
3. Claim No. 130 for \$1,474.74, by Ebersole Inc., 1900 Cumberland Street, Lebanon, PA 17042-0539. Filed 12/26/2018.
4. Claim No. 160, for \$128,141.90, by Pennsy Supply Inc., Martha Burke, 900 Ashwood Parkway, Suite 800, Atlanta, GA, 30338, for materials received from Pennsy Supply Plant 00197, Millard South, 155 Syner Road, Annville, PA 17003. Filed 01/15/2019.
5. Claim No. 168 for \$32,239.08, by Miller and Bixler Autoparts, Howard Bixler, 1622 Cumberland St., Lebanon, PA 17042. Filed 01/18/2019.
6. Claim No. 172 for \$2,329.80, by Leshar Mack Sales and Service Inc., 2700 Cumberland Street, Lebanon, PA 17042-2595. Filed 01/20/2019.
7. Claim No. 172 for \$241.98, by Leshar Mack Sales and Service Inc., 2700 Cumberland Street, Lebanon, PA 17042-2595. Filed 01/20/2019.
8. Claim No. 246 for \$2,887.03, by 911 Rapid Response, 700 W. Main St., Annville PA 17003. Filed 01/28/19.

**TOTAL CLAIMS IN LEBANON COUNTY: \$226,045.01.**

**SOURCE:** [http://www.kccllc.net/welded/register?fbclid=IwAR1\\_ZOT4GpKycN278ZwFPPSEDL1eE8T2HHL2\\_0YlyvS64rfzja0zZm0Giw](http://www.kccllc.net/welded/register?fbclid=IwAR1_ZOT4GpKycN278ZwFPPSEDL1eE8T2HHL2_0YlyvS64rfzja0zZm0Giw)

Some creditor's claims may also be associated with Welded Construction's work on ETP/Sunoco's Mariner East pipeline project in Lebanon County. In addition to its adverse effects on these Lebanon County businesses, Welded's bankruptcy has resulted in millions of dollars of claims filed by more than 200 businesses across Pennsylvania and the United States. We further note that according to the "Case Home" of Case No. 18-12378, the claims period remains open until February 28, 2019, which means that additional claimants might step forward between now and the end of February.

A copy of the lawsuit filed by Transco against Welded Construction accompanies this letter, sent separately as an email attachment.

We do not pretend to take sides or render judgment in this ongoing legal dispute between Transco and Welded Construction. We simply note and bring to your attention the fact that this dispute has resulted in \$226,045.01 in unpaid invoices for Lebanon County businesses – invoices that may well never be paid.

A bit more by way of context. In June 2017, Williams/Transco introduced a smartphone app it called "WillShop Local" for its workers and contractors as a way to promote business with local merchants, including those in Lebanon County (see <http://atlanticsunriseexpansion.com/willshop-local-app-will-connect-local-businesses-atlantic-sunrise-workers/>). This webpage promoting the WillShop Local app, targeted to all the counties through which the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline passes, includes a quote from Karen Groh of the Lebanon County Chamber of Commerce:

"At the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce, promoting our members and making business-to-business and business-to-consumer connections is what we do," said chamber President and CEO Karen Groh. "The Williams innovative WillShop smartphone app and program will do exactly that. It allows workers in the field quick and easy access to area businesses and services that they need. Not only does this help the workers find what they need locally, it keeps their spending dollars local, injecting money into the Lebanon Valley economy."

Nearly two years after this rosy prognosis, the reality has turned out very differently. Construction of the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline in Lebanon County has brought with it not only a degraded local environment and significant potential threats to public health and safety in the coming decades, but nearly a quarter million dollars in what's likely to be unrecoverable debt by Lebanon County businesses.

We emphasize that we share the goal of the Chamber of Commerce of bringing economic prosperity to Lebanon County citizens and businesses. However – and we are confident that the Chamber of Commerce agrees with us on this point – not at the cost of our health, our safety, or our environment.

According to the Lebanon County Commissioners website, “The Lebanon County Commissioners are dedicated to providing public service to the community to protect, restore and improve the quality of life in Lebanon County. Functioning as the Executive and Legislative Branches of government, the County Commissioners and their associated agencies commit themselves to the leadership and service required in pursuing activities beneficial to the citizens of the County of Lebanon.” (<http://lebcounty.org/depts/Commissioners/Pages/default.aspx>)

We bring these facts to your attention to respectfully ask what you intend to do in response. We respectfully suggest a strongly worded letter to our state and federal senators and representatives expressing your dismay at this regrettable state of affairs for the citizens and businesses of Lebanon County, a direct result of the construction of the Williams/Transco’s Atlantic Sunrise pipeline project. We also respectfully suggest a letter to Williams/Transco expressing similar sentiments.

One final note: restoration work on the Atlantic Sunrise project remains to be completed. An area at the crossing of the Swatara Creek, for instance, was not restored or stabilized since before Christmas. In addition, the Snitz Creek crossing of the Mariner East pipeline at Rt. 72 & North Cornwall Road remains an unsightly mess, as it has for many months now. We question whether the Lebanon County Conservation District has been able to continue ongoing inspections or monitoring of either the Atlantic Sunrise or Mariner East construction. With Welded Construction’s bankruptcy filing, we don’t know who is doing the final restoration work or what their timeline is for its completion. But the fact remains that much restoration work along both pipeline routes remains to be completed in Lebanon County.

Respectfully,

Ann Pinca, President, Lebanon Pipeline Awareness, Inc.

Michael Schroeder, Vice President, Lebanon Pipeline Awareness, Inc., and Associate Professor of History, Lebanon Valley College, Annville PA, 17003.

Philip Stober, Board of Directors, Lebanon Pipeline Awareness, Inc., and owner, Bare Foot Organics, 80 North Cornwall Road, Lebanon, PA 17042.