

Governor Terry McAuliffe
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: EQT and NextEra Proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline [focus on economics]

Dear Governor McAuliffe,

I am writing to express my grave concern with, and opposition to, the proposed EQT/NextEra Proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline. I understand your concern with ensuring the Commonwealth's economic competitiveness and job creation. However, this proposal, if enacted, would endanger our children's safety, do irreparable harm to ecologically sensitive land, put our water supply at serious risk of contamination, and have the potential to cause a significant decline in the value of hundreds of homes along the proposed pipeline's route. Despite the negative impact of these costs to our land, lives, property, and environment, EQT has been proceeding without a formal public process, or an opportunity for meaningful public input. The entire process has been cloaked in secrecy and draped in information ambiguity.

As you are completing your first year as Virginia's Governor, I implore you to consider your legacy. How do you want to be remembered? As a pro-environment advocate? Pro-big business? Anti-"localities' rights to make their own decisions about land use activities within their jurisdictions" – something you promised during your campaign.

My opposition to the proposed EQT pipeline is one of economics. You have stated unequivocally that these pipelines should be built because they will be good for the economic growth of Virginia. "What this will do for us is to be able to have a renaissance and make Virginia the mid-Atlantic manufacturing hub". Actually the gas proposed to come through the Mountain Valley Pipeline will go directly to the Transco compressor station 165 in Pittsylvania County – it won't stop along the way. EQT has stated on their website that they are prepared to provide "the option to request a project extension to delivery points further south into North Carolina". So EQT's goal is not to provide natural gas to citizens or corporations in Virginia. They will ship it and sell it to Transco or other natural gas distributors in other states.

The Transco pipeline system is a major provider of natural gas to the northeastern and southeastern states. Its compressor stations help move gas from the Gulf Coast to 12 Southeast and Atlantic Seaboard states, including major metropolitan areas in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. At present, Transco provides only 28% of the natural gas used in Virginia. The other 72% comes to us from other interstate and intrastate providers. The reality is that this pipeline isn't about Virginia or helping us become the mid-Atlantic hub of manufacturing. The reality is that Transco wants to purchase less expensive natural gas and reverse, for the first time in half a century, the direction of flow of their natural gas distribution, i.e., to begin going from the north to the south; and through their Atlantic Sunrise project, to become bidirectional. So, this isn't at all about Virginia; it's about finding less expensive gas through fracking to feed their markets from NY to the gulf coast. It's about Big Oil/Gas wanting Bigger Profits. We're not being asked to help them. We're being told we are required by federal law to give up our lands and lives so they can make more money.

EQT, Dominion, and Williams Partners, LLC have all stated that a high pressure 42" gas pipeline cannot be tapped locally for natural gas. Williams has stated that clearly on their website. "That's the job of local gas distributors" such as Appalachian Natural Gas Distribution Company, Atmos Energy, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc., Roanoke Gas Company, Shenandoah

Gas Division of Washington Gas Light, Southwestern Virginia Gas Company, Virginia Natural Gas, Inc., and Washington Gas Light Company. Once the proposed Mountain Valley pipeline delivers the natural gas to compressor station 165 in Pittsylvania County, Transco will own the gas, transport it, and sell it to whomever they choose. Transco and Williams Partners, LLC have said that 20% of the gas coming into compressor station 165 will “go north to NY and 70% will go south to burgeoning markets along the gulf coast”. So most of the gas will go to help other states and not Virginia. The gas that does remain is destined to go to a Dominion Virginia Power plant in Brunswick County via a 24” pipeline as Dominion want to shift from coal to natural gas. EQT/NextEra and Transco will make huge profits from selling fracked gas, the New River and Roanoke Valleys serve only as a conduit for that gas, and we in the New River Valley will suffer the pain, harm to our lives, our land, our property, our environment, and quality of life. They make the profits and we bear the costs; and the gas coming through that 42” high pressure conduit will benefit other states and Dominion Virginia Power.

As our governor and as the highest ranking official with fiduciary responsibility for all the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia, I had hoped you would continue your referendum on the environment and stand with us against fracking. Supporting the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline is more than tacit support for fracking.

I implore you to put a stop to the Mountain Valley Pipeline and all natural gas pipelines transporting natural gas produced through fracking.

Sincerely,