

Governor Terry McAuliffe
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

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

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.

During the gubernatorial race you campaigned on a pro-clean energy platform; and you garnered the support of some very strong environmental groups. As voters we were encouraged by what was, by most accounts, a referendum on the environment.

The natural gas to come through the proposed pipeline will be produced by Hydro-Fracking in Wetzel County, West Virginia. Environmental scientist around the world consider hydro-fracking to be dangerous and environmentally damaging because of its deep-bore drilling and use of high-pressured, chemically treated water to blast apart rock to release the gas trapped inside. On 17 August 2013 you spoke out against hydro-fracking when you launched your environmental protection policy platform on a campaign stop in Norfolk. According to the Associated Press, you said, "I won't allow it as long as I'm governor." "We made it clear to everyone we will not allow fracking in our national forest. I'm not going to allow it." I know you were speaking of hydro-fracking in the George Washington National Forest, but the dangers of hydro-fracking to the drinking water of residence around the drilling site and the damage to the environment are the same whether hydro-fracking occurs in a national forest, West Virginia, or in your own backyard.

The proposed pipeline will harm some of the areas for which Virginia is most well-known. If constructed, the pipeline will pass through the Appalachian Mountains, across the Appalachian Trail, and across the Blue Ridge Parkway.

As our governor and the highest ranking official with fiduciary responsibility for all 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,

