

Short Letter to the Governor - Philosophically opposed

Dear Governor McAuliffe,

Since the advent of the possibility of permits being issued for natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale formation in West Virginia, there have been many specific issues raised about the safety of the hydrofracking process. These concerns are very real. However, I believe that the larger issue is a philosophical one, which simply removing the environmental hazards does not address.

Any reliance on the limited resource of fossil fuels is shortsighted. All of the funding and technological expertise being put toward development of oil and gas should be redirected to the development of renewable energy sources. Even if "green" technologies are implemented in the harvesting of natural gas, the resulting pipelines used to transport it will almost always require coming through some part of Southwest Virginia.

The EQT/NextEra proposed Mountain Valley pipeline will be unprecedentedly large and under extraordinary high pressure, 1,400 pounds per square inch. The lines will require periodic compressor stations which will require between 10 and 25 acres of land and will have between two and five 1,340 horsepower compressors which will run and make unpleasant noise 24/7. The industrialization of our rural landscapes and the alteration of our small town lifestyles will be destroyed. These are quality of life issues which may be difficult to quantify, but nonetheless are the reason that many of us choose to live in Southwest Virginia. Ransoming these intangibles which make our lives worthwhile, for the short term questionable economic gain of a "fracked gas boom", is a grave mistake. To support it is, in my opinion, reprehensible and unconscionable. I hope you will not allow this to be your legacy.