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Dr. Homer Wilkes
Under Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture c/o Jefferson National Forest MVP Project
5162 Valleypointe Parkway
Roanoke, VA 24019

Subject: MVP and Equitrans Expansion Project Supplemental EIS No. 50036

Dear Dr. Wilkes:

On behalf of the West Virginia Manufacturers Association, I write to urge the United States Forest Service to approve the permit for the Mountain Valley Pipeline project to perform work in the Jefferson National Forest.

The U.S., and particularly the Appalachian region, has an abundant supply of natural gas, and we need projects like the Mountain Valley Pipeline to bring it to homes and businesses that need it. Additionally, the increased use of natural gas has played a prominent role in reducing U.S. carbon emissions, while also helping to lower energy costs for consumers like the manufacturers my association represents.

Activists opposed to the MVP project have done a disservice to the public by stoking fears and spreading misinformation. Pipelines are the safest way to transport natural gas. It is much safer to bring natural gas to the region by pipeline than it is by truck or rail, and it's better for the environment, too. Mountain Valley Pipeline's plan to traverse 3.5 miles of the Jefferson National Forest is comprehensive and focused on minimizing the impact for every potential resource affected in the National Forest.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this critically important infrastructure project, and I encourage the Forest Service to approve Mountain Valley Pipeline's permit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rebecca McPhail, President
WV Manufacturers Association

RRM/ss