

January 31, 2023

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

Subject: Supplemental EIS #50036 for Mountain Valley Pipeline, Equitrans Expansion Project

Dear Dr. Wilkes:


I write to express our views regarding the proposed permit for construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline in the Jefferson National Forest. As a member of the Giles County Board of Supervisors, I believe it is important that this permit be issued so construction can be completed and the project can be brought into service.

The federal government has repeatedly found the MVP is needed to meet public demand. As such, it only makes sense for the federal government to maintain a consistent position and authorize all the permits and approvals necessary for this project to be built. Easements on private land have long since been acquired, and much of the project has been constructed. It is time to finish the project. Further delays only hinder the collection of tax revenue for local governments, and the needed infrastructure development for local industry and our country. With less than 10 percent of our electricity generated by solar and wind, natural gas is the logical energy solution for the foreseeable future.

While this project has been a source of pain and frustration for many in this region, Mountain Valley Pipeline also has invested in our community. The company has directly provided hundreds of thousands of dollars to parks, schools, fire and EMS departments, the public service authority and local nonprofit agencies, not to mention the indirect impact to the local economy. Company representatives have communicated well with updates regarding construction and been responsive to issues that we have brought to their attention.

No one wants large scale infrastructure in their backyard, but it is absolutely necessary to maintain our economy and standard of living. From a practical standpoint, if this project is halted after this level of completion and investment, how will we ever construct large scale infrastructure projects in America again? I urge you to issue the permit for construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

Sincerely,


John Lawson