

The Senate of West Virginia
Charleston



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BILL HAMILTON
CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & NATURAL
RESOURCES

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

RE: Mountain Valley Pipeline and Equitrans Expansion Project Supplemental EIS #50036

Dear Mr. Wilkes,

I am a West Virginia State Senator representing two counties (Braxton and Webster) through which the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) passes through. This project provided good jobs and positive economic impact for my district while it was being constructed. However, we have been unable to reap the true benefits of the project, in terms of gas transmission and local tax revenues, due to innumerable permitting and legal delays. Additionally, my constituents who own property on and around the pipeline right-of-way have been inconvenienced for an extended period of time.

The MVP project has been subject to unprecedented regulatory review, with state and federal agencies repeatedly concluding this critical infrastructure system can be built safely and responsibly and can coexist with natural resources. In fact, my district, which is a very rural and scenic part of West Virginia, is a perfect example of how the pipeline responsibly coexists with our natural resources.

I appreciate the Forest Service's finding that the project can be built safely, responsibly and with minimal impact to the environment. Please approve the permit for the project to perform the work in the Jefferson National Forest. It is past time to complete this project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Hamilton".

Senator Bill Hamilton