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ELEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
APPROPRIATIONS
EDUCATION
PUBLIC SAFETY

February 17, 2023

Re: Mountain Valley Pipeline and Equitrans Expansion Project Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement #50036

Dear Dr. Wilkes:

On behalf of my constituents and the public interest, I ask the U.S. Forest Service to select Alternative (1) "No Action" and to reject the eleven proposed changes to your Forest Plan as included in the Mountain Valley Pipeline and Equitrans Expansion Project Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement #50036.

The Jefferson National Forest is uniquely special land held in the public trust, and its health and safety are critical to sustaining productive national forests. The proposed amendments could bring negative changes, impacting the forest's soil health, biodiversity and riparian zones. Scenic viewsheds, vulnerable forest ecosystems and old-growth forest should not be jeopardized to accommodate one project.

Many of my constituents have experienced harms to their drinking water resources, properties and livelihoods as a result of the pipeline's construction and their experiences reinforce the need for robust real-world analysis within every application for this project. I do not find that the documentation submitted with this Supplemental Impact Statement sufficiently addresses modeling nor real-world analysis.

Additionally, the applicant's history of insufficient sediment and erosion control measures during construction efforts has produced over 300 violations of water quality protection requirements in Virginia. This record should reinforce the need to fully protect the Jefferson National Forest from this project.

It is my privilege and duty as a public servant to protect the citizens and the lands of the Commonwealth. I respectfully request that you reject the eleven proposed changes to your Forest Plan and select Alternative (1) "No Action," to best protect the Jefferson National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Rasoul".

Sam Rasoul
Member, Virginia House of Delegates
Eleventh District