



February 21, 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 the Mountain Valley Pipeline and Equitrans Expansion Project**

Dear Dr. Wilkes:

On behalf of the American Petroleum Institute's (API) Southeast Region Office, I am writing in support of the Mountain Valley Pipeline's (MVP) request for a permit to construct within a 3.5 mile corridor in the Jefferson National Forest. This project's capacity of 2 billion cubic feet (bcf) per day is fully subscribed and after previously receiving every approval necessary for construction to start, stands at nearly 94 percent complete.

The API-Southeast Region, as a division of API, represents all segments of the oil and natural gas industry. API's nearly 600 members produce, process, and distribute most of the nation's energy. The industry supports 11.3 million U.S. jobs or 5.6 percent of total U.S. employment and is backed by a growing grassroots movement of millions of Americans. API was formed in 1919 as a standards-setting organization. In its over 100 years, API has developed more than 800 standards to enhance operational and environmental safety, efficiency, and sustainability. Our membership also includes several companies that develop, construct, and operate natural gas pipelines. We, therefore, have a great interest in the development of MVP.

Construction activity began in the Jefferson National Forest in 2018 but legal challenges resulted in that important work being stopped that same year. Every analysis and evaluation of the project's construction plans has shown crews can complete their work while sufficiently protecting the forest's sensitive resources. It is imperative that this project be finished and the right-of-way be fully restored.

The Mountain Valley Pipeline is necessary to help Southwest Virginia keep major employers and attract new companies. This new infrastructure project will provide reliable access to affordable domestic natural gas which is vital to raising the region's quality of life and promoting economic growth. It also will play a critical role in facilitating the transport of natural gas supply access to North Carolina where it is needed to meet growing residential and commercial demand as well as to satisfy environmental goals by transitioning electricity generation from coal. There is overwhelming evidence to expect that this project will be built and operated responsibly and that regulators will provide appropriate oversight.

I look forward to the Forest Service approving the necessary permit as requested and construction to be completed in time for the project to enter service later this year.

Respectfully,

Sincerely,

David McGowan, III

Director, API-SE Region