



Roanoke Branch NAACP

Post Office Box 12362 Roanoke, VA 24025
Phone: (540) 344-2424



February 6, 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: MVP and Equitrans Expansion Project Supplemental EIS No. 50036

Dear Dr. Wilkes:

My name is Dr. Brenda L. Hale and I serve as President of the Roanoke Branch NAACP and Vice-President of Region 4 Virginia State Conference NAACP. On behalf of our members, I am writing to request that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management expeditiously approve all permits necessary for the completion of the Mountain Valley Pipeline project. This project is very important for the citizens in our area. Roanoke Valley citizens need additional natural gas for economic business development and residential heating. According to the local news, for the past 2 winters residents have been subjected to higher prices due to limited supplies of natural gas. Customers would not have been faced with these challenges of capacity shortages if Mountain Valley Pipeline was in service, as originally planned.

As someone who is extensively involved in the community, I know the need for additional natural gas first-hand, therefore, I am very troubled about misleading information and political agendas by the opposition that are delaying the completion of this project. Individuals on fixed incomes or have modest means, are the ones who are hurt the most by the frivolous lawsuits and delay tactics. Roanoke Valley's need for additional natural gas is real and has grown significantly since MVP's original completion date of December 2018. We are dependent on additional natural gas to heat our homes and generate jobs for our people, not to mention the additional tax dollars that will fund our schools and communities.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit my request. I respectfully encourage you to grant the approvals necessary for MVP to complete its pipeline project as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Dr. Brenda L. Hale
President Roanoke Branch NAACP
Vice-President Region 4 VSC NAACP