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First name: Steve
Last name: Roberts
Organization: West Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Title: President
Comments: February 3, 2023

Dr. Homer Wilkes

Under Secretary

U.S. Department of Agriculture

c/o Jefferson National Forest

5162 Valleypointe Parkway

Roanoke, VA 24019

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

Dear Secretary Bose:

On behalf of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, which has members in all fifty-five counties employing over half our state's workforce, we urge the United States Forest Service to approve the permit for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) project to perform work in the Jefferson National Forest.

The public need for the MVP has been repeatedly affirmed by state and federal regulators, and in 2022, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission extended Mountain Valley's certificate of public convenience and necessity to 2026.

While this project has been necessary since inception to meet growing domestic and international energy needs, it is even more critical today that it becomes operational. Without the ability to transport our state and region's abundant supply of natural gas to the markets that need it, domestic energy prices may remain inflated, and leave the U.S. unable to fully meet the energy needs of our allies overseas.

Due to forces outside its control, Mountain Valley Pipeline has been delayed significantly by litigation challenging

its approved permits and authorizations. In spite of that, the project is 94 percent complete and remains fully subscribed, with customers just waiting for the project to be finalized.

As we understand, the Forest Service has thoroughly reviewed information related to the Project's potential sedimentation impacts and has appropriately confirmed that short-term effects on water resources would be minor to moderate and long-term effects would be minor as it relates to the 3.5-mile segment of the project crossing the Jefferson National Forest.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue, and we urge the Forest Service to approve the permit for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) project.

Sincerely,

Stephen G. Roberts,

President