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Organization: Virginia Oil and Gas Association

Title: President

Comments: On behalf of the Virginia Oil and Gas Association (VOGA), I am writing in support of Mountain Valley Pipeline's application for a permit to complete construction in the Jefferson National Forest.

VOGA is a non-profit trade association that represents companies, partnerships, individuals and other entities across the commonwealth with an interest in the oil and gas industry. Our industry supports an estimated 125,000 jobs in Virginia, and we have a long history of supporting and encouraging developing of these resources in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

For nearly a decade, Mountain Valley has worked collaboratively with state and federal regulators to secure necessary permits and authorizations, including the approvals needed to complete work in the Jefferson National Forest. This project has been reviewed at an unprecedented level, and the project team has prepared comprehensive scientific analyses of MVP's potential impacts.

To date, work on the Mountain Valley Pipeline is nearly 94 percent complete. The compressor stations and interconnects are ready for operation. Approximately 80 percent of the pipeline work is complete. More than half of the 303-mile right of way has been fully restored.

The need for the Mountain Valley Pipeline is undeniable. Its capacity is fully-subscribed through long-term shipping contracts, and the project will play an essential role in providing natural gas access to end users across the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions, including in Virginia, where Roanoke Gas Co. will draw from two taps on MVP for local use. As the cleanest burning fossil fuel, and as an energy source that is abundant in the U.S., natural gas provides homes and businesses with an affordable, reliable and cleaner domestic fuel that also promotes American energy independence.

It is imperative that MVP be completed. VOGA is proud to support the construction and operation of the Mountain Valley Pipeline project, and we respectfully request the Forest Service to approve Mountain Valley's plans for construction in the Jefferson National Forest.