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Title:

Comments: Dear Dr. Wilkes: On behalf of the Gas and Oil Association of WV, Inc. (GO-WV), I appreciate the opportunity to comment regarding the Mountain Valley Pipeline and Equitrans Expansion Project Supplemental EIS #50036. West Virginia is an energy powerhouse, and it is no secret the work we do here contributes to supplying much needed energy across our country and throughout the world. Natural gas production has grown over 770 percent over the past decade- thanks to the advances in both horizontal drilling technologies and hydraulic fracturing. This advancement has led to making West Virginia the nation's fifth largest energy producer. However, this means little without a modern pipeline infrastructure in place to move energy from where it is produced to where it is needed. It is a matter of national security. Pipelines are the safest, most reliable, and cost-efficient way to transport natural gas. These lines are constructed by thousands of hard-working men and women in the skilled building trades who take great pride in their craftsmanship. Unfortunately, politics, government red tape and the "Keep it in the Ground" extreme environmental activism aimed at eliminating the development of all fossil fuels have stopped, blocked, or are delaying critical pipeline projects, like the Mountain Valley Pipeline, that would improve access to abundant, reliable, and affordable natural gas energy. GO-WV works closely with and appreciates the U.S. Forest Service's responsible approach to the Fourth Circuit's remand and its finding that the project can be built safely, responsibly and with minimal impact to the environment. Prioritizing such improvements in our country's pipeline infrastructure network will directly benefit all West Virginians, customers, and end-users; enhance our nation's energy security; and help protect our world's environmental well-being.

The Gas and Oil Association of WV wholeheartedly supports the Mountain Valley Pipeline and requests the USDA Forest Service approve the permit for the project to perform the work in the Jefferson National Forest.