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Organization: Virginia FREE
Title: President & Executive Director
Comments: January 25, 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: Mountain Valley Pipeline and Equitrans Expansion Project - Supplemental EIS #50036

Dear Dr. Wilkes:

As executive director of Virginia FREE, the premiere source of non-partisan political information for Virginia's business community representing hundreds of thousands of employees, I am writing today in support of the supplemental analysis and MVP's permit to cross the Jefferson National Forest.

Virginia FREE takes a very long view of economic development and growth. We believe that the Mountain Valley Pipeline is a critical infrastructure project for the Commonwealth and support the completion of its construction.

Given the need for U.S. energy independence and the ongoing global energy market volatility, it is vital that this nation move forward with job creating energy projects, which will help alleviate as much stress and strain on the economy and our people. Rural Americans have been especially hit hard and the MVP will bring much needed economic benefit to Southside Virginia and the Roanoke Valley in particular. Furthermore, it is clear from the robust analysis performed by federal regulators, including the Forest Service, that the project's construction can be completed responsibly and in a way that is protective of sensitive resources.

Virginia FREE believes that the remaining 6% of work on the MVP should be completed without further delay due to the obvious demand for natural gas, the tremendous economic boost it will provide, the product is environmentally better than other alternatives, the fact that it helps the poor with lower energy bills, and the contractor's continued dedication to safety. Virginia FREE supports the Mountain Valley Pipeline's effort to complete construction in the Jefferson National Forest.

Sincerely,

Chris Saxman