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Comments: I am a retired Professional Engineer, with 40 years of broad expertise in environmental engineering. I wish to submit a comments in support of the development of the natural gas pipeline proposed thru the Jefferson National Forest. I have no relationship with any entity supporting, proposing, designing, financing, or constructing this or any other current pipeline project. 1) Pipelines are the safest means of transporting liquid or gaseous hydrocarbons that are essential for the near and intermediate future of the United States population, economy, and national defense. 2) The suggestions that these products be transported by other means, or not at all, are counterproductive from an economic, safety, and environmental point-of-view. 3) The construction phase is messy, but temporary. The resulting pipeline right-of-way is nearly indistinguishable from the fire access roads that are common in national forests. 4) A national forest is not a national park. They are to be used to meet the needs of present and future generations. Even if we are successful in greatly reducing our dependence of fossil fuels for energy production, the petrochemicals produced from natural gas will remain absolutely essential for the foreseeable future.