

June 1, 2023

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, the organizations signed below respectfully request your support for Senator Tim Kaine's amendment to the debt ceiling bill that would remove the section related to the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP).

The deal negotiated by President Biden and Leader McCarthy includes a section that would force the completion of MVP, a 304-mile interstate pipeline that would transport gas from northern West Virginia to southern Virginia. Among other things, the deal attempts to prevent any courts from reviewing the legality of federal or state agency decisions made to approve the pipeline. This provision offers special benefits for only one corporate entity. While there are other egregious provisions of concern in the bill, this letter focuses on the section regarding MVP.

Claims that MVP construction is almost complete, has no legal hurdles ahead of it, or that it is needed to meet energy demands, are without merit. Two federal authorizations are currently being challenged in court, and three other federal decisions and one state decision could be challenged in court if the relevant agencies continue their failure to properly review the environmental consequences of the project. Moreover, proponents' arguments that the project is necessary for energy security or national security lack evidence. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's 2023 Annual Energy Outlook, domestic demand for gas is projected to be flat or falling over the coming decades. At the same time, European gas demand is also on the decline.

MVP construction is currently only 55.8% complete to final restoration; more than 400 difficult stream and wetland crossings remain, including many in watersheds containing endangered aquatic species. MVP has previously had multiple federal and state authorizations vacated in federal court, and the construction that occurred under the now-voided permits has been so problematic that its developers have been cited by West Virginia and Virginia regulators for more than 500 alleged violations of permit conditions and environmental laws. In addition, local landowners have had their property taken through eminent domain for private profit when there is no proven public benefit.

As Senator Kaine has said, "[a]llowing one party disappointed with the actions of a court to pick a different court, bypass normal administrative processes, and eliminate meaningful judicial review of its project would set a dangerous precedent that could easily lead to abuse and even corruption in the future."

This interstate gas pipeline is a speculative private venture that has significant climate implications and has already caused environmental destruction. It is completely unrelated to the essential business of raising the debt ceiling and is not necessary for national security or energy security. Our federal judicial branch should be allowed to review its compliance with federal laws.

We strongly urge you to support the Kaine amendment to remove the MVP-related provisions from the debt ceiling bill.

Sincerely,

198 methods	Concerned Residents of Oxford
350 Bay Area Action	Conservation Northwest
350 New Hampshire	Conservation Voters New Mexico
350 Seattle	Conservation Voters of PA
350 Triangle	Creation Justice Ministries
350.org	CTLCV
7 Directions of Service	Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
Alabama Rivers Alliance	Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
Alaska Community Action on Toxics	Defenders of Wildlife
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments	Delaware Riverkeeper Network
American Friends Service Committee	Earthjustice
Appalachian Mountain Club	Earthworks
Appalachian Voices	Eight Rivers Council Association
ARTivism Virginia	Empower NJ
Bayou City Waterkeeper	Endangered Species Coalition
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League	Energy Justice Network
BlueWaveNJ	Environmental Law & Policy Center
Bold Alliance	Extinction Rebellion Austin
California Environmental Voters	Food & Water Watch
CASA	For a Better Bayou
CatholicNetwork US	Freshwater Future
Center for Biological Diversity	Fridays for Future US
Center for Health, Environment and Justice	Friends of Buckingham
Center for Oil and Gas Organizing	Friends of the Earth
Chesapeake Climate Action Network	Georgia Conservation Voters
Chispa TX & Chispa National, a program of LCV/LCVEF	Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
Christians For The Mountains	Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance
Citizen Action of Wisconsin	Green America
Citizens Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood	Green House Collaboration Center
Clean Water Action	Green New Deal Network
Climate Action Alliance of the Valley	Greenpeace USA
Climate Action Campaign	GTGT Group
Climate Defiance	Indian Creek Watershed Association
Climate Hawks Vote	Indigenous Environmental Network
Coalition of Community Organizations	Indivisible Ambassadors
Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate	Indivisible Virginia
Community for Sustainable Energy	Interfaith Power & Light
Community Roots Garden	Interstate 70 Citizens Advisory Group
	John Muir Project
	Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety & the Environment

League of Conservation Voters
 Littleton Business Alliance
 Maine Conservation Voters
 Maine UU State Advocacy Network
 Maine Youth Action
 Maryland LCV
 Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association
 Board
 Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries
 Michigan League of Conservation Voters
 Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action
 Mon Valley Clean Air Coalition (MVCAC)
 Montbello Neighborhood Improvement
 Association
 Mothers Out Front
 Mothers Out Front Roanoke Team
 National Parks Conservation Association
 Natural Resources Council of Maine
 Natural Resources Defense Council
 NC Climate Justice Collective
 NC League of Conservation Voters
 New Jersey League of Conservation Voters
 NJ Conservation Foundation
 North Range Concerned Citizens
 Ocean Defense Initiative
 Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund
 Ohio River Foundation
 Oil Change International
 Operation HomeCare, Inc.
 Our Future West Virginia
 Oxfam America
 Partnership for Policy Integrity
 People's Action
 Prairie Rivers Network
 Preserve Bent Mountain
 Preserve Craig, Inc.
 Preserve Giles County
 Preserve Monroe (WV)
 Preserve Montgomery County VA
 Property Rights and Pipeline Center
 Protect Our Commonwealth
 Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights
 (POWHR)

Rachel Carson Council
 RapidShift Network
 Razom We Stand
 Save Monroe, Inc.
 Save the Environmental Protection Agency
 Save the Pine Bush
 ShaleshockCNY
 Sierra Club
 Small Business Alliance
 Southern Environmental Law Center
 Southwest Organization for Sustainability
 Spirit of the Sun
 Stop The Oil Profiteering (STOP)
 Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable
 Development
 Sunrise New Orleans
 System Change Not Climate Change
 Tar Creekkeeper
 Texas Campaign for the Environment
 Texas Conservation Alliance
 The Alliance for Appalachia
 The Famous Ballroom Farm
 The Piedmont Environmental Council
 The Wilderness Society
 Third Act - Richmond
 Third Act NYC
 Three Rivers Waterkeeper
 Turtle Island Restoration Network
 Union Hill Freedmen Family Research
 Group
 Unite North Metro Denver
 United Church of Christ, Justice and Local
 Church Ministries
 Veteran's Service Corps
 Virginia Interfaith Power & Light
 Virginia LCV
 Virginia Organizing
 Virginia Pipeline Resisters
 Wall of Women
 Waterkeeper Alliance
 West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, Inc.
 West End Revitalization Association
 West Virginia Headwaters Waterkeeper

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
West Virginia Mountain Party
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
Western Environmental Law Center
Western Organization of Resource Councils
Western Slope Businesses for a Livable
Climate
Western Watersheds Project
Wild Virginia
Wisconsin Conservation Voters
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network
Women's International League of Peace and
Freedom-Triangle Branch
Womxn from the Mountain
Working for Racial Equity
Yogaville Environmental Solutions
Zero Hour