

September 25, 2019

Dear Governor Northam,

Despite reports showing we have a mere 11 years to take drastic action to avoid catastrophic climate change, your regulatory agencies and boards continue to approve dangerous and unnecessary fossil fuel infrastructure projects that harm Virginia communities and devastate our ability to address the climate crisis.

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to publicly oppose the continuing buildout of new fossil fuel infrastructure and to direct state agencies to additionally oppose the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, like the Transco Southeastern Trail Expansion project and the MVP Southgate project.

Our future depends on a rapid transition to renewable energy. Virginia cannot continue to lock itself into decades more of fossil fuel dependence, as is already being attempted with the approval of the Mountain Valley and Atlantic Coast Pipelines and the Chickahominy Power Station. Further, a wealth of evidence shows these and similar projects to be dangers to surrounding communities, which are predominantly low-income communities, communities of color, and Indigenous communities. Along the route of the Mountain Valley Pipeline, continuous violations and loss of livelihood are physical proof of these dangers. Work continues on this pipeline despite the project no longer having all permits in place for completion due to court rulings, and an expansion of this pipeline, MVP Southgate, is already in the works.

Supporting these projects and standing by as more new or expanding fossil fuel infrastructure projects are proposed is an abdication of your responsibility to protect Virginia communities and the future of our climate. We call on you to publicly oppose new and expanding fossil fuel infrastructure and to direct your state agencies to reject any new state permits for these projects, including the MVP Southgate and Transco Southeastern Trail Expansion Projects. Instead, we hope you use your power to work toward a rapid transition to renewable energy.

Signed,

Food & Water Action / Food & Water Watch

Virginia Poor People's Campaign

People Demanding Action

Virginia Interfaith Power and Light

Mothers Out Front Virginia

Wild Virginia

Virginia Organizing

Activate Virginia

Virginia Democracy Forward (VADF)

Virginia Justice Democrats

Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

Center for Common Ground

Sierra Club - Great Falls Group

Protect Our Water Heritage Rights Coalition

Preserve Giles County

Preserve Franklin

Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)

350 Fairfax

Alexandria 350

Divest RVA

Lewinsville Faith in Action

Peninsula Indivisible

Pipeline Education Group

350 Loudoun

Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance

Richmond For All

Climate Realty Project Central/Southern Va. Chapter

Friends of Buckingham

Indivisible Virginia

Together Hanover

Indivisible Nova West

Richmond Peace Education Center

Liberal Women of Chesterfield County

Care for our Common Home Ministry of St. John Neumann Catholic Church

Yogaville Environmental Solutions

Sierra Club - Piedmont Group

Our Revolution - Alexandria

NoVA Grassroots

Indivisible Winchester

Virginia Citizens Consumer Council

Indivisible Below the Beltway

Sustainable Roanoke

Sunrise Movement Roanoke

Indivisible Northern Virginia

Friends of Nelson

The Climate Reality Project: Northern VA Chapter

META (Mad Enough to Act)

We of Action

Shutler Architects

RAPTORS - Rockingham Alliance for the Protection & Transformation of Our Resources &
Society

Virginia Pipeline Resisters

Arlington (VA) Green Party

Good Stewards of Rockingham

Haw River Assembly