



For Immediate Release:

August 4, 2017

Contact:

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 215-369-1188 x 102

FERC Quorum Restored *Public Outcry Promised*

Delaware Riverkeeper Network Statement

Washington, DC: For months community members from across the nation have been calling their senators and travelling to Washington D.C. for face to face meetings to urge senators to vote “no” to restoration of a quorum at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). They have provided documentation of the many abuses of power and law experienced by communities at the hands of FERC. It came as a shock that despite these efforts, in the last moments before heading off for August recess, there was a rushed, and completely unchallenged, vote to confirm two Donald Trump nominations to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

“Senators who claim they care about climate change, about the president’s assaults on the environment, and about the dangers of continuing to rely on fossil fuels in an age when solar and wind energy are readily available proved that for them these are just talking points, not real concerns. Only a few, like Senator Bernie Sanders, has true conviction when it comes to these issues. But as for those that voted yes, this act is a shocking display of disregard for the public and for the States that are being devastated by FERC’s rubber stamp approvals of pipelines and its demonstrated misuse of its authority in a way that robs people of their legal and property rights, undermines state authority, and supports the devastation of our communities and environments. This morning communities experiencing FERC’s abuses are speaking out and promising to hold Senators who voted “yes” accountable.” said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network** who has been among those calling for hearings into FERC and opposing restoration of the quorum.

“The senate betrayed the public’s trust when it approved Donald Trump’s two nominees for FERC Commissioner. Communities threatened by FERC fracked gas pipelines have been urging the senate and the house to hold hearings into FERC’s abuses of its power, of the law, and of the eminent domain authority it conveys before it restores a quorum. We have provided evidence and documents of these abuses. We have met with members of Congress and communicated with every single member of the senate about our concerns. And yet, while no member of the Senate has seen fit to champion such investigations on behalf of

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701
Bristol, PA 19007
Office: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215) 369-1181
dm@delawareriverkeeper.org
www.delawareriverkeeper.org

the public, they found the time to restore a quorum at FERC so these many abuses can continue,” **van Rossum** adds.

###

Delaware Riverkeeper Network is a nonprofit membership organization working throughout the 4 states of the Delaware River Watershed including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York. DRN provides effective environmental advocacy, volunteer monitoring programs, stream restoration projects, public education, and legal enforcement of environmental protection laws.