



Senator Chuck Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Cory Booker
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Bob Menendez
528 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Chris Coons
127A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Pat Toomey
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Tom Carper
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Bob Casey, Jr.
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

July 27, 2017

**Delaware Riverkeeper Network Opposes Senate Bill 1460 –
the Dirty Energy Bill**

Dear Senators,

Senate Bill 1460 states that it would modernize the energy and natural resource policies of the United States, but in reality it would be a tremendous leap backwards. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network strongly opposes the Bill.

The Bill, sponsored by Senator Murkowski, would increase greenhouse gas emissions and harm the environment and public health by furthering U.S. dependence on outdated fossil fuel-based energy. S 1460 would expedite review of new mining, oil, and gas permits, and would hasten approvals for liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities. These new export facilities would result in more pipelines and devastation to communities. Every one of our Delaware River watershed states will be harmed by the expansion of fossil fuel pipelines and export facilities that would be advanced. LNG export results in harm to the environment and public health for the sole benefit of export companies. S 1460 would also increase fossil fuel extraction in coastal waters by increasing funding and expedite the already streamlined process for fracking on public

lands. And new pipeline infrastructure is already wreaking havoc on our environment, property rights, and the relationship between state and federal agencies.

The Bill does nothing to increase renewable energy production in the U.S. and instead would further solidify our dependence on backwards-looking energy sources such as natural gas and coal. The Bill would also make FERC the lead agency in the authorization of natural gas projects, thereby diminishing the already lacking review of environmental and public health impacts of these projects. FERC already has too much power and is wielding it in a way that is harming communities, allowing private companies to abuse the power of eminent domain, is undermining state legal authority, and is taking from people their right to challenge threats to their property, safety and environment before irreversible damage is done.

S 1460, a nearly 900-page Bill, was not fully vetted as it was never heard or debated in committee. It is being rushed through by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, whose former aid Neil Chatterjee is currently under consideration to become a FERC Commissioner.

S 1460 comes at a time when people throughout the country who have been negatively affected by FERC and extraction companies have been actively voicing their concerns over the FERC process and the Agency generally, as well as U.S. dependence on fossil fuels and concomitant pipelines. Just last week, activists representing a national coalition of community and environmental organizations visited with Senators to request a Congressional hearing on FERC's abuses of power and law and to demand necessary reforms. During the visit, coalition members urged Senators to oppose S 1460, and requested a delay for the vote that would restore a quorum at FERC and any votes that would expand FERC's power.

Bewilderingly, so many Senators took a strong stance in support of the Paris Climate Agreement and opposing the President's position that the U.S. would no longer be a part. In voicing support for the Paris Climate Agreement and U.S. remaining an active part of its implementation, you and your colleagues cited the need for U.S. climate leadership, transitioning to renewable energy, and environmental protection. These are the same reasons why you should be opposed to S 1460, opposed to restoring a quorum at FERC until Congressional hearings into its abuses of power and law have been held, and why you should be urgently arguing for needed reforms of the agency's powers.

FERC has consistently misused its power to abuse communities and harm the environment. Grievances with the Agency have been raised time and time again in recent years through letters, one-on-one meetings, phone calls, public demonstrations, a People's Hearing in Washington, DC, and have been compiled in a Dossier of FERC's Abuses of Power and Law. To ignore such abundant evidence of abuse of the people at the hands of FERC — and to instead consider S 1460, which would exacerbate these harms and further benefit the industry — would show a concerning disregard for the constituents you supposedly represent.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network, on behalf of over 20,000 members, calls on every Senator to vote "no" on S 1460, and "no" on any FERC nominees that come to the floor.

Respectfully,



Maya K. van Rossum
the Delaware Riverkeeper