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Statement on House Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties FERC Findings

Representative Jamie Raskin, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (Committee on Oversight and Reform), released preliminary findings today from the Subcommittee's investigation into the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) use of eminent domain in natural gas pipeline construction. The findings show that FERC is misusing its power of eminent domain and is preventing landowners from challenging FERC approvals of pipelines through FERC's use of tolling orders.

"We are so grateful to Congressman Raskin for taking up this important cause. The abuses inflicted by FERC on people's rights, states' rights, our environment and future generations is obscene. Representative Raskin and the Subcommittee's investigation is a huge step towards curbing these abuses. FERC consistently mis-uses its authority to disenfranchise the public and rubber-stamps pipeline approvals, as my organization the Delaware Riverkeeper Network has been documenting through our Dossier of FERC Abuses," **said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, and leading member of the VOICES coalition which fights natural gas pipeline projects.** "The fact is, FERC has been cavalierly approving gas pipelines at a dramatic rate, ignoring landowner's rights, environmental impacts, and clear legal mandates. FERC's use of tolling orders, which place challengers in legal limbo, while allowing pipeline construction to move forward, means that by the time the people get their day in court, it is simply too late, the damage is done and there is no meaningful remedy. I applaud Representative Raskin and the Subcommittee for their investigation and for releasing these preliminary findings."

To read the Subcommittee's press release, go to: <https://oversight.house.gov/news/press-releases/subcommittee-releases-preliminary-findings-showing-ferc-pipeline-approval>

To see the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's full Dossier of FERC Abuses, visit: <http://bit.ly/DossierofFERCAbuse>.

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