

**Delaware Riverkeeper Network ~ Beyond Extreme Energy ~ Berks Gas Truth ~ Green America
SCRAM ~ Sustainable Medina County ~ Citizens United for Renewable Energy (CURE)
New Progressive Alliance ~ Popular Resistance ~ OVEC-Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
Gas Free Seneca ~ Earth Action, Inc. ~ We Are Seneca Lake ~ Frack Free Four Corners
Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy ~ Greenbrier River Watershed Association
Advocates for Springfield, NY ~ SAYMA Earthcare Action Network
Union County (NJ) Peace Council ~ Bus For Progress
NorCo Democratic Women's Council Environmental Committee
FreshWater Accountability Project ~ Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community
Environment New Jersey ~ Friends of Buckingham ~ 350 Eugene, Oregon
Seneca Lake Guardian ~ Fenton Inn ~ Winyah Rivers Foundation ~ Sourland Conservancy
Homeowners Against Landtaking -HALT ~ Raging Grannies Eugene (Oregon)
Interfaith Earthkeepers of Lane Co. Oregon ~ Prince William Soundkeeper
RAPTORS - Rockingham Alliance for the Protection & Transformation of Our Resources & Society
AMP Creeks Council ~ Securing Economic and Energy Democracy
Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA) ~ Resolutions Unlimited ~ Lebanon Pipeline Awareness
New Mexico Story Power ~ ECHO Action NH
NH Pipeline Resistance & Roaring Brook Affinity Group
Bucks County Environmental Action ~ Mason Pipeline Committee ~ Sane Energy Project
Pennsylvania Earth Guardians ~ Mountain Master Builders
Hopewell Township Citizens Against the PennEast Pipeline
LAWPA (Local Authority Western PA) ~ Preserve Newport Historic Properties ~ Steeleworks
Northjersey Pipeline Walker ~ New Haven Climate Movement ~ 350 CT
Interreligious Eco-Justice Network ~ Raritan Riverkeeper ~ Lancaster Against Pipelines
Project CoffeeHouse ~ SNYFGP ~ Responsible Drilling Alliance
Grassroots Environmental Education ~ Friends of Nelson ~ New Mexico Climate Action
WildEarth Guardians ~ Frack Off Chaco ~ Southwest Native Cultures ~ Vitale Therapeutics, Inc.
LEPOCO Peace Center (Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern) ~ Resist the Pipeline
Earthworks ~ Safe Energy Rights Group (SEnRG) ~ Fenton Inn, LLC ~ Milwaukee Riverkeeper
198 methods ~ Concerned Citizens of Otego NY
Sanford-Oquaga Area Concerned Citizens (S-OACC)
EcoSpirituality Group of SHCJ American Province ~ Climate Action Alliance of the Valley
RJB Environmental ~ Chatham Research Group ~ Bucks Environmental Action
Bucks County Sierra Club ~ Philadelphia PSR ~ Organic Consumers Association
The Shalom Center ~ People Demanding Action ~ Rachel Carson Council
Clean Air Council ~ Protecting Our Waters ~ United Sludge Free Alliance
Earth Echoes ~ Pennsylvania Council of Churches ~ Shaleshock CNY
Amistad Catholic Worker ~ NJ State Industrial Union Council ~ Green Party of Santa Clara County
Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN)
Seeding Sovereignty ~ Athens County (OH) Fracking Action Network
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability ~ Citizens For Water ~ NYH2o
Finish Line Painting ~ Concerned Citizens of Lebanon County
Securing Economic and Energy Democracy of SW NM ~ Preserve Roanoke/ Bent Mountain ~
Hilltown Community Rights ~ Advocates for Cherry Valley ~ Friends For Environmental Justice**

**Oil Change International ~ Durham CCAP ~ Save Carbon County
HoCo Climate Action ~ No Fracking Bucks ~ StopNED ~ Pipeline Education Group
No Fracked Gas in Mass ~ Berkshire Environmental Action Team
OgreOgress productions ~ Food & Water Watch ~ 100 Grannies for a Livable Future
Stop Pilgrim Pipeline ~ Willits Economic Localization ~ The Enviro Show
Capital District Against Fracking ~ Holland Township NJ Citizens Against the PennEast Pipeline
The Progressive Hub ~ Friends of Buckingham ~ Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline ~ Committee
Against Plutonium Economics ~ PAUSE- People of Albany United for Safe Energy ~
People, Not Pipelines ~ Concerned Burlington Neighbors ~ Kiss Electric LLC
Already Devastated and Devalued Homeowners of Parsippany ~ No Gas Pipeline in Grafton MA
Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope ~ Plains Township Citizens Against PennEast ~ Bold Alliance
Wild Virginia ~ Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition ~ Citizens' Environmental Coalition
350 Bucks County ~ Northern NJ Chapter, National Organization for Women**

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

cc:
Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

September 20, 2017

Honorable Members of Congress and the Senate:

President Donald Trump is fast tracking a Dirty Energy Agenda that is putting our country at grave risk. Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have put an exclamation point on the realities of how harmful climate change will be for our present and future communities if we do not swiftly transition from coal, oil, and fracked gas to a clean energy path. The damage will be to human life and safety, to our local and national economies, to businesses large and small, and to our healthy environments necessary to sustain food, air, water, and flood protection for present and future generations.

President Trump is seeking multiple avenues to increase use of coal, gas and oil fracked from shale, and other dirty fossil fuels. Among President Trump's Dirty Energy Agenda is:

- advancing three pro-industry representatives as Commissioners to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC);

- advocating rollback of environmental regulations and project review requirements, including rollback of guidance that ensured consideration of climate changing impacts of FERC regulated fossil fuel projects; and
- increasing the power of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to advance dirty fossil fuel pipelines despite its documented abuses of power and law.

Congress needs to be a check on the Dirty Energy Agenda of Donald Trump, not a rubber stamp. Rather than bring rationality to the President's Dirty Energy plans, the Senate is considering Senate Bill 1460.

S 1460, sponsored by Senator Murkowski,

- would increase greenhouse gas emissions and harm the environment and public health by furthering U.S. dependence on fossil fuel-based energy;
- expedite review of new mining, oil, and gas permits, and drilling;
- hasten approvals for liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities, resulting in more pipelines and devastation to communities in the US in order to provide energy to foreign nations;
- expanding research and development for extracting methane hydrates.

S1460 does nothing to increase renewable energy production in the U.S. and instead would further solidify our dependence on foreign nations who are taking the lead on ensuring their ability to supply this clean energy of the future.

Among the biggest concerns of the signers of this letter is that S1460 would make FERC the lead agency in the authorization of fracked gas projects, requiring other agencies to give "deference" to FERC. FERC is already recognized as failing to provide independent, thoughtful, and rational review to infrastructure projects. Greenhouse gas emissions, property rights impacts, environmental harms, and job loss are all given short shrift in FERC's reviews. FERC is now well known for its misuse of eminent domain authority, its efforts to undermine state authority and its misuse of a legal loophole to rob communities of their ability to challenge pipeline projects before their property rights are taken and construction is allowed to begin.

It is bewildering that so many Senators who took a strong stance in support of the Paris Climate Agreement, who touted the need for U.S. climate leadership and transitioning to renewable energy, who consistently assert a concern for environmental protection, and who have been vocal critics of FERC's project reviews, are now poised to support S1460 and other dirty energy legislation.

The signers of this letter have all experienced, first hand, the abuses of fracked gas infrastructure and the abuses of authority carried out by FERC. And so we urge you to reject S1460, to reject all legislation that seeks to further empower and embolden FERC and that rolls back environmental protections.

Instead we urge you to advance and support legislation that:

- advances clean energy industries, jobs and technologies and seeks to position the United States as a clean energy leader, and that
- calls for hearings into FERC's abuses of power and law and to use those findings to identify and advance needed reforms to the Natural Gas Act.

Advancing President Trumps Dirty Energy Agenda, and legislation like S1460, the Energy Modernization Act of 2015, HR 1900 (of the past) and other such legislation, is damaging to our nation. Oil and gas pipelines are damaging to our nation's economy. By contrast, advancement of clean energy industries are a job creator and economic driver. Pipeline investments suck up financial resources and political energy that could and should be used for business investments that will maximize near term and long term job benefits. Investment in clean energy generates a greater number of long term jobs that bring greater capacity for worker learning and advancement. In fact, for every million dollars invested in clean energy jobs (including wind, solar, eco-friendly water, and efficiency) we generate 6 to 8 times the number of direct jobs, and 3 times the number of direct, indirect and induced jobs collectively.¹

The claim of economic benefits from FERC approved pipelines (including jobs, local tax revenue and savings on energy) are dwarfed by the economic costs those pipelines inflict. For example:

- While Millennium Pipeline company claims its ESU project will generate \$2 billion of economic value it will cost between \$4.7 billion to \$18.8 billion in economic harm;
- While the PennEast pipeline company asserts it will provide \$2.3 billion of economic value over 30 years, analysis shows it will cost communities between \$13.3 billion to \$56.6 billion in economic harm.

Pipelines reduce the market value of our homes, sometimes by as much as 5 to 40%,² while at the same time reducing the marketability of homes. Unable to sell their homes for fair value or at all, people, kids and families are forced to live next to the pipeline infrastructure forced upon them by eminent domain that endangers and disturbs them or to sell their property at a loss, a loss which most people can ill afford to bear. The fear of living next to a pipeline is well founded. The rate of accident, incidents and explosions of recently built pipelines exceeds rates of the past with gas transmission lines installed in the 2010s having annual average incident rates exceeding that of pre-1940s pipes.³ In the past 20 years, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has recorded 5,679 "significant" pipeline incidents (i.e., resulting in \$50,000 or more in costs), 310 fatalities, 1,301 injuries, and nearly \$8 billion in costs and damages. That works out to an average, every year, of 284 incidents (including explosions) 65 injuries, 16 deaths, and nearly \$390 in annual costs and damages.

Even the industry recognizes that pipeline infrastructure is advancing too fast, with too many pipelines being built in an unplanned fashion to make sense:

"Speaking to attendees at the 21st Annual LDC Gas Forums Northeast conference in Boston Tuesday, [RBN Energy LLC President Rusty] Braziel said an evaluation of price and production scenarios through 2021 suggests the industry is planning too many pipelines to relieve the region's current capacity constraints."⁴

¹ See e.g. The Economic Benefits of Investing in Clean Energy, Dept. of Economics and Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, June 2009

² E.g. <http://www.ldnews.com/story/news/local/2016/01/02/pipelines-could-affect-property-values/77984160/>; http://www.forensic-appraisal.com/gas_pipelines_q_a

³ <http://pstrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Incidents-by-age-of-pipes-PST-spring2015-newsletter-excerpt.pdf>

⁴ See Failure to Demonstrate Need Attachment 2, Jeremiah Shelor, Marcellus/Utica on Pace for Pipeline Overbuild, Says Braziel, Natural Gas Intelligence, June 8, 2016.

“We believe that the Appalachian Basin’s takeaway capacity will be largely overbuilt by the 2016-2017 time frame,” said Elle G. Atme, Vice President, Marketing and Midstream operations for independent producer Range Resources.⁵

According to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA):

“The pipeline capacity being proposed exceeds the amount of natural gas likely to be produced from the Marcellus and Utica formations over the lifetime of the pipelines.” “[T]he regulatory environment created by FERC encourages pipeline overbuild.”⁶

All the way around – jobs, economics, environment, health, property values, quality of life, climate change, and honoring our obligation to future generations – continuing investments in dirty fossil fuels, and its infrastructure, is a fool’s errand.

We write to urge you to oppose Donald Trump’s Dirty Energy Agenda and instead to:

1. Oppose any legislation before you that does anything but strengthen review of, and protections from, fossil fuel development including infrastructure, including S1460;
2. Call for Congressional hearings into the abuses of law and power by FERC, and to, as a result of the hearing process, identify and advance needed legislative and regulatory reforms;
3. Put in place a moratorium on new fracked gas infrastructure approvals by FERC until identified reforms from the hearing process are put in to place;
4. Advance legislation and agency mandates that fast track advancement of clean energy alternatives and strive to position the United States as an international clean energy leader.

Respectfully,

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Ted Glick, Beyond Extreme Energy

Karen Feridun, Founder, Berks Gas Truth

Todd Larsen, Executive Co-Director, Green America

George Billard, Co-Founder, SCRAM

Kathie Jones, Organizer, Sustainable Medina County

Georgina Shanley, Co-Founder, Citizens United for Renewable Energy (CURE)

Ed Griffith, Liason, New Progressive Alliance

Kevin Zeese, Co-Director, Popular Resistance

Vivian Stockman, Vice Director, OVEC-Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition

Yvonne Taylor, Vice President, Gas Free Seneca

Mary Gutierrez, Executive Director, Earth Action, Inc.

Peter Drobny, Liason, We Are Seneca Lake

Jenni Siri, Founder, Frack Free Four Corners

⁵ Marcellus-Utica could soon be overpiped, Kallanish Energy, February 2, 2016.

⁶ IEEFA, Risks Associated with Natural Gas Pipeline Expansion in Appalachia, April 2016.

Jim Vogt, President, Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy
John Walkup III, President, Greenbrier River Watershed Association
Tara Sumner, Vice President, Advocates for Springfield, NY
Denise Elliott, Representative, SAYMA Earthcare Action Network
Diane Beeny, Chair, Union County (NJ) Peace Council
Kathleen Maher, Treasurer, Bus For Progress
Tara Zrinski, Co-Chair, NorCo Democratic Women's council environmental committee
Lea Harper, Managing Director, FreshWater Accountability Project
Paul Ferrazzi, Executive Director, Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community
Doug O'Malley, Director, Environment New Jersey
Lakshmi Fjord, Steering Committee Member, Friends of Buckingham
Patricia Hine, Director, 350 Eugene, Oregon
Joseph Campbell, President, Seneca Lake Guardian, A Waterkeeper Affiliate
Lilia Fenton, Owner, Fenton Inn
Cara Schildtknecht, Waccamaw Riverkeeper, Winyah Rivers Foundation
Caroline Katmann, Executive Director, Sourland Conservancy
Vincent DiBianca, Chairperson & Trustee, Homeowners Against Landtaking -HALT
Laurie Granger, Founder, Organizer, Raging Grannies Eugene (Oregon)
Rouanna Garden, Facilitator, Interfaith Earthkeepers of Lane Co. Oregon
Kate McLaughlin, President, Prince William Soundkeeper
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Sue Durling, Direct Action Coordinator, NH Pipeline Resistance & Roaring Brook Affinity Group
David Meiser, Co-Founder, Bucks County Environmental Action
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Kim Fraczek, Director, Sane Energy Project
Arianne Elinich, Director, Pennsylvania Earth Guardians
Will Fenton, Owner, Mountain Master Builders
Patty Cronheim, Founder, Hopewell Township Citizens Against the PennEast Pipeline
Debra Borowiec, Coordinator, LAWPA (Local Authority Western PA)
Jerolyn Deplazes, Secretary, Preserve Newport Historic Properties
Sara Steele, Owner, Steeleworks
Diane Wexler, Founder, Northjersey Pipeline Walker
Geremy Schulick, Convenor, New Haven Climate Movement
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Robert Cross, Board of Directors President, Responsible Drilling Alliance
Ellen Weininger, Director, Educational Outreach, Grassroots Environmental Education
Ernie Reed, President, Friends of Nelson
Lynne Fischer, Founder, New Mexico Climate Action
Rebecca Sobel, Senior Climate & Energy Campaigner, WildEarth Guardians
Rebecca Sobel, Coordinator, Frack Off Chaco
Terry Sloan, Director, Southwest Native Cultures
Galen Knight Ph.D., President, Vitale Therapeutics, Inc.
Nancy Tate, Coordinator, LEPOCO Peace Center (Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern)
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Cheryl Nenn, Riverkeeper, Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Andrew Hudson, Founder, 198 methods
Stuart Anderson, Community Organizer, Concerned Citizens of Otego NY
Gail Musante, Official Signer, Sanford-Oquaga Area Concerned Citizens (S-OACC)
Terri MacKenzie, Chair, EcoSpirituality Group of SHCJ American Province
Cathy Strickler, Founder, Climate Action Alliance of the Valley
James Frisbee, Vice President, RJB Environmental
Martha Girolami, Member, Chatham Research Group
Sharon Furlong, Spokesperson, Bucks County Sierra Club
Walter Tsou, Executive Director, Philadelphia PSR
Ronnie Cummins, Director, Organic Consumers Association
Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Executive Director, The Shalom Center
Andrea Miller, Executive Director, People Demanding Action
Robert K. Musil, President & CEO, Rachel Carson Council
Joseph Otis Minott, Executive Director and Chief Counsel, Clean Air Council
Iris Marie Bloom, Executive Director, Protecting Our Waters
Darree Sicher, Founder & President, United Sludge Free Alliance
Nyanna Susan Tobin, Storyteller and Founder, Earth Echoes..Stories for a small planet
Rev. Sandra L. Strauss, Director of Advocacy & Ecumenical Outreach, Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Michael Gorr, Shaleshock, CNY
Luz Catarineau, Community Member, Amistad Catholic Worker
Carol Gay, President, NJ State Industrial Union Council
Christine Pepin, Council Member, Green Party of Santa Clara County
Anita Mentzer, Executive Director, Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN)
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Joe Levine, Director, Citizens For Water

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Pam Bishop, Principal, Concerned Citizens of Lebanon County
Debaura James, Representative, Securing Economic and Energy Democracy of SW NM
Roberta Bondurant, Member, Preserve Roanoke/ Bent Mountain
Delta Carney, Secretary/Researcher, Hilltown Community Rights
Lynn Marsh, Trustee/President, Advocates for Cherry Valley
Elaine Tanner, Program Director, Friends For Environmental Justice
Janet Redman, US Policy Director, Oil Change International
Ann Marshall, Organizer, Durham CCAP
Linda Christman, President, Save Carbon County
Elisabeth Hoffman, Advocacy Team Member, HoCo Climate Action
Richmond Shreve, Publisher, No Fracking Bucks [NoFrackingBucks.org]
Cathy Kristofferson, Co-Founder, StopNED
Eleanor Amidon, Networker, Pipeline Education Group
Rosemary Wessel, Founder/Program Director, No Fracked Gas in Mass
Jane Winn, Executive Director, Berkshire Environmental Action Team
Glenn Freeman, Co-Founder, OgreOgress productions
Thomas Meyer, Senior Organizer, Food & Water Watch
Pat Bowen, Climate Justice Fighter, 100 Grannies for a Livable Future
Susan Zellner Hogan, Stop Pilgrim Pipeline
Brian R Smith, Founding Membe, Willits Economic Localization
Don Ogden, Producer, The Enviro Show
Collin Thomas, Co-Founder, Capital District Against Fracking
Lorraine Crown, Holland Township NJ Citizens Against the PennEast Pipeline
Su Scherer, The Progressive Hub
Heidi Dhivya Berthoud, Secretary, Friends of Buckingham
Becky Meier, Co-Founder, Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline
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