

**Delaware Riverkeeper Network ~ Berks Gas Truth, PA**  
**OVEC-Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition ~ 198 Methods ~ FrackBusters, NY**  
**Beyond Extreme Energy ~ Green America**  
**Lancaster Against Pipelines ~ Marshalls Automotive**  
**Gas Free Seneca ~ People Demanding Action**  
**Environmental Justice Task Force Of the Western NY Peace Center**  
**Fenton Inn LLC ~ Fenton Family Holdings ~ Sustainable Medina County**  
**Communities for Safe and Sustainable Energy ~ Compressor Free Franklin**  
**Hebbard Fence, LLC ~ Terrapredictions ~ Occupy Bergen County (NJ)**  
**Terra Bella Farm ~ Union County (NJ) Peace Council**  
**Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)**  
**Shaleshock of Central New York ~ People's Climate Movement - Capital District**  
**Community Roots ~ Grassroots Environmental Education**  
**Indian Creek Watershed Association ~ Save the Pine Bush**  
**Alliance to Protect the People and the Places We Live (APPPL)**  
**Together Hanover ~ Potomac Riverkeeper Network**  
**Sanford-Oquaga Area Concerned Citizens (S-OACC)**  
**Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development**  
**Coalition Against the Pilgrim Pipeline-NJ**  
**Breathe Easy Susquehanna County ~ Sister District of WNY ~ No Fracked Gas In Mass**  
**Berkshire Environmental Action Team ~ Bold Alliance**  
**Rochester Defense Against Fracking**  
**Nash Stop the Pipeline (Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League)**  
**Safe Energy Rights Group, Inc. ~ Plymouth Friends For Clean Water**  
**Friends of Buckingham County, Virginia ~ Concerned Citizens of Allegany County**  
**Preserve Giles County ~ Achy Acres (Organic) Farm**  
**Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition ~ Save Carbon County**  
**Friends of Nelson County (VA)**  
**Homeowners Against Land Taking (HALT-Penneast)**  
**David Pringle Associates LLC ~ Lebanon Pipeline Awareness ~ Food & Water Watch**  
**Virginia Citizens Consumer Council ~ Alexandria CAP**  
**Juniata Watershed People Before Pipelines**  
**Bucks County Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline ~ Seneca Lake Guardian**  
**Echo Action: #Fossilfree603 ~ Responsible Drilling Alliance**  
**CARCS- Citizens Against the Rehoboth Compressor Station**  
**Coalition to Protect New York**  
**Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station**  
**Jewish Climate Action Network ~ South Coast Neighbors United**  
**Freshwater Accountability Project Ohio ~ NYC Grassroots Alliance**  
**Citizens United For Renewable Energy (CURE) ~ Don't Gas the Pinelands Coalition**

**Bronx Climate Justice North ~ Earthkeeper Health Resources ~ Sane Energy Project  
Species Alliance ~ ROAR Against Fracking ~ Breathe Project  
We Are Seneca Lake ~ Common Ground Community Trust  
Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action ~ Sustainable Tompkins  
Bucks County Audubon Society ~ Preserve Montgomery County VA  
Fair Compensation for Underground Natural Gas Storage ~ Greenvest  
Preserve Franklin ~ Move To Amend- Lower Bucks ~ Winyah Rivers Alliance  
LaPlaca and Associates LLC ~ Delaware Township Citizens Against the Pipeline  
Protect Our Water Heritage Rights (POWHR) Coalition ~ Coalition to Reroute Nexus  
Bucks Environmental Action ~ Bucks County Sierra Club  
Buckeye Environmental Network ~ Concerned Citizens Ohio  
350.Org Bucks County ~ Our Revolution New Mexico  
Frack Free Four Corners ~ Residents Allied For the Future of Tioga (RAFT)  
Preserve Floyd ~ 350 Loudoun ~ Big Bend Conservation Alliance  
PAUSE - People of Albany United For Safe Energy ~ Rachel Carson Council  
Preserve Craig, Inc. ~ Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,  
Triangle Branch ~ WV Mountain Party  
Friends of Augusta ~ Greenbrier River Watershed Association  
Summers County Residents Against the Pipeline ~ Resist Spectra  
The Rap - The Health and Environmental Resources Accountability Project  
Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope ~ Sourland Conservancy ~ Backbone Campaign  
Stop the Pipeline ~ LEPOCO Peace Center (Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern)  
Keep Colorado Green ~ Friends for Environmental Justice ~ Milwaukee Riverkeeper  
Environment New Jersey ~ Paradise Gardens and Farm  
Inisbliss Farm ~ SCRAM ~ Partnering With Youth In Community (PYC)  
Women Speak Out For Peace and Justice  
Concerned Stewards of Halifax County - BREDL Chapter  
Rockfish Valley Investments, LLC ~ Chatham Citizens Against Coal Ash Dump  
Steeleworks ~ McLaurin Company Inc. ~ WV Citizen Action Group  
Enough Is Enough, Preserve VA ~ Crystal Coast Waterkeeper  
Coastal Carolina Riverwatch ~ White Oak-New Riverkeeper Alliance  
NH Pipeline Health Study Group ~ Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper  
Earthworks ~ Chatham Research Group ~ Veterans Service Corps  
Friends of the Narrows of Hans Creek ~ Progressives for Positive Change  
Stockton Village Farm ~ Preserve Monroe ~ Virginia Organizing  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service  
Central Jersey Environmental Coordinator ~ Yogaville Environmental Solutions  
CNY Solidarity Coalition ~ CCAP Williams Twp. ~ The Wei  
Oil Change USA ~ Sustainable Otsego ~ Landscape Alternatives LLC  
Advocates for Cherry Valley ~ Frack Free Catskills**

**People for a Healthy Environment ~ Elmirans & Friends Against Fracking  
Catskill Mountainkeeper ~ West Virginia Highlands Conservancy  
Buckingham: We the People ~ Milford Doers Milford NY  
Concerned Residents of Oxford ~ New York Climate Action Group  
Coalition Against the Rockaway Pipeline ~ Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline  
Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment  
Uwchlan Safety Coalition ~ Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Arizona Chapter  
Howard County (MD) Climate Action ~ New York Progressive Action Network -  
Our Santa Fe River, Inc.  
Physicians for Social Responsibility-Philadelphia/Pennsylvania  
Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance ~ Long Island Activists  
Surfrider Foundation ~ Mohawk Valley Keeper**

January 29, 2019

Chair Frank Pallone  
House Energy & Commerce Committee

Chair Raul Grijalva  
House Committee on Natural Resources

Chair Elijah Cummings  
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Chair Peter DeFazio  
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Members of Congress

RE: Congressional Hearings to Investigate Abuses of Power and Law by  
the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Must be a 2019 Top Priority

Dear Chair Frank Pallone, Chair Raul Grijalva, Chair Elijah Cummings, Chair Peter DeFazio,  
and other members of Congress:

FERC has a near 100% approval rate for proposed pipeline projects. This shocking statistic, coupled with the many documented examples of how FERC misuses its authority, benefiting pipeline companies while disempowering and harming human and natural communities, and delegitimizing states and other agencies, warrants quick and thorough investigation, oversight, and possibly censure and reform by Congress.

As representatives of communities who are being harmed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) misuse of authority, we urge you to:

- Hold congressional hearings that include members of the harmed communities as well as scientists, journalists, and other knowledgeable non-energy-industry-connected experts, to learn the many ways FERC is misusing its authority granted by the Natural Gas Act, and how that abuse of power is harming communities and our environment;
- Take swift affirmative action to amend the Natural Gas Act so as to protect communities including eliminating the threats and harms associated with natural gas infrastructure;
- Oppose the proposed Water Quality Certification Improvement Act of 2018, S. 3303/H.R. 6889, which seeks to diminish the rights of states to have a role in pipeline reviews, approvals, and/or permitting; and seek, support and advance only legislation that strengthens the rights of states and people to decide whether pipeline infrastructure should be permitted to advance through their states, communities, and/or private properties; and
- Ensure that any new infrastructure legislation pursued by Congress or other federal officials does not cause increased proliferation of fossil fuel pipelines and infrastructure, which would increase and exacerbate climate change and the environmental and community harms already experienced.

FERC is misusing its authority in myriad ways. Among its most egregious conduct are the following:

- Allowing premature use of the legal construct of eminent domain to seize property rights, even before a pipeline project has met all legal obligations, thereby allowing the taking of private property for a pipeline that may never be constructed (which has in fact happened – once taken, the property rights do not return even if approvals for a pipeline are subsequently denied);
- Stripping people of their legal and due process rights to challenge FERC approval of natural gas pipelines and infrastructure before the power of eminent domain is used to seize their property rights, and construction is allowed to proceed, thereby inflicting irreparable harm on communities and the environment;
- Undermining the legal authority of states to determine whether natural gas pipelines and infrastructure would violate state water quality standards and should be approved, denied or modified prior to construction;
- Undermining the authority of other federal agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to determine if the project would comply with federal law under their jurisdiction and therefore should be approved, denied or modified before FERC approval is granted and construction started;
- Advancing pipeline projects based on demonstrably false and misleading facts, claims and “data”; i.e., FERC approval is granted despite demonstrated proof (such as legitimate scientific data, photographs, agency documentation, and factual proof) that information provided by the pipeline company, key to its proposal, is false, misleading and/or intentionally not provided;
- Advancing pipeline projects without genuine demonstration of need, instead allowing companies to claim “need” simply by producing contracts with affiliates of the pipeline company itself and/or asserting the project is needed in order to enhance a company’s private profits or competitive edge;
- Allowing third party contractors with demonstrated conflicts of interest and an obvious vested interest in the outcome to lead review of the proposed project. This includes contractors who are working for the company at issue on other or related projects, and/or those working for the pipeline companies on directly related projects that will be affected by the actions and recommendations of the contractor; and

→ Allowing FERC employees and Commissioners with demonstrated conflicts of interest, including financial, to work on project review and decision making for proposed pipeline projects.

This is but a shortlist of malfeasance by this agency.

Evidence and additional demonstrations of FERC's abuses of its authority can be found in the Dossier of FERC's Abuses of Power and Law, found at: <http://bit.ly/DossierofFERCAbuse>. In addition, you can review video testimony from the 2016 People's Hearing at <http://bit.ly/PeoplesHearingReFERC>, at which impacted community members testify to the impact FERC's abuses have had on their property rights, legal rights, health, safety, property values, small businesses, jobs and communities.

We, communities across the nation who are losing our property rights and suffering the environmental, economic, health, safety and quality of life harms being inflicted by FERC's abuses of its authority urge you to hold Congressional hearings to investigate and take necessary steps to halt this harm.

Respectfully requested,

Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, Delaware Riverkeeper Network  
Karen Feridun, Founder, Berks Gas Truth, PA  
Vivian Stockman, Interim Executive Director, OVEC-Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition  
Drew Hudson, Founder, 198 Methods  
Mary Finneran, FrackBusters, NY  
Ted Glick, Beyond Extreme Energy  
Todd Larsen, Executive Co-Director, Green America  
Tim Spiese, Board President, Lancaster Against Pipelines  
Marshall, Owner, Marshalls Automotive  
Yvonne Taylor, Vice President, Gas Free Seneca  
Andrea Miller, Executive Director, People Demanding Action  
Charley Bowman, Co-Chair, Environmental Justice Task Force of the Western NY Peace Center  
Lilia Fenton, Fenton Inn LLC  
Will Fenton, Fenton Family Holdings  
Kathie Jones, Organizer, Sustainable Medina County  
John Elder, Vice President, Communities for Safe and Sustainable Energy  
Donald Hebbard, President / Founding Member, Compressor Free Franklin  
Donald Hebbard, Owner, Hebbard Fence, LLC  
Thomas Adams, Chief Scientist, Terrapredictions  
Sally Jane Gellert, Member, Occupy Bergen County (N.J.)  
Wade Neely, Owner, Terra Bella Farm  
Diane Beeny, Chair, Union County (NJ) Peace Council  
Suzannah Glidden, Co-Founder, Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)  
Hubert Kimball, Member with Signing Authority, Shaleshock of Central New York  
Tina Lieberman, Chair, People's Climate Movement - Capital District  
Kat Houghton, Executive Director, Community Roots  
Patricia Wood, Executive Director, Grassroots Environmental Education  
Howdy Henritz, President, Indian Creek Watershed Association  
Grace Nichols, Save the Pine Bush  
Steven Norris, Member, Alliance to Protect the People and the Places We Live (APPPL)  
Christiane Riederer, Environment Committee, Together Hanover

Phillip Musegaas, Vice President of Programs and Litigation, Potomac Riverkeeper Network  
Gail Musante, Official Signer, Sanford-Oquaga Area Concerned Citizens (S-OACC)  
Linda Reik, Member, Board of Directors, Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development  
Ken Dolsky, Organizer, Coalition Against the Pilgrim Pipeline - NJ  
Rebecca Roter, Chairperson, Breathe Easy Susquehanna County  
Ann Maynard, Director, Sister District Of WNY  
Rosemary Wessel, Program Director, No Fracked Gas in Mass  
Jane Winn, Executive Director, Berkshire Environmental Action Team  
Jane Kleeb, Founder, Bold Alliance  
Toby Stover, Founding Member, Rochester Defense Against Fracking  
Marvin Winstead, Chapter President, Nash Stop the Pipeline (Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League)  
Nancy Vann, President, Safe Energy Rights Group, Inc.  
Peter Hudiburg, Founder, Plymouth Friends for Clean Water  
Lakshmi Fjord, Steering Committee, Friends of Buckingham County, Virginia  
Mr. Frederick Sinclair, Chairman, Concerned Citizens of Allegany County  
Donna Pitt, Treasurer, Preserve Giles County  
Joseph Buchanan Buchanan, Owner, Achy Acres (Organic) Farm  
Ken Dolsky, Organizer, Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition  
Linda Christman, President, Save Carbon County  
Helen Kimble, President, Friends of Nelson County (Virginia)  
Vincent DiBianca, Chairperson & Trustee, Homeowners Against Land Taking (HALT-Penneast)  
David Pringle, Principal, David Pringle Associates LLC  
Ann Pinca, President, Lebanon Pipeline Awareness  
Scott Edwards, Co-Director, Food & Water Justice, Food & Water Watch  
Irene Leech, President, Virginia Citizens Consumer Council  
Jackie Freedman, Founder, Alexandria Cap  
Ellen Gerhart, Administrator, Juniata Watershed People Before Pipelines  
Arianne Elinich, Founder, Bucks County Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline  
Joseph Campbell, President, Seneca Lake Guardian  
Stephanie Scherr, Director, Echo Action: #Fossilfree603  
Barbara Jarmoska, Treasurer, Responsible Drilling Alliance  
T. Manzella, President, CARCS- Citizens Against the Rehoboth Compressor Station  
Maura Stephens, Cofounder, Coalition to Protect New York  
Alice Arena, President, Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station  
Katy Allen, Rabbi, Jewish Climate Action Network  
Wendy Graca, President, South Coast Neighbors United  
Leatra Harper, Managing Director, Freshwater Accountability Project Ohio  
Susan Spieler, Coordinator, NYC Grassroots Alliance  
Georgina Shanley, Co-Founder, Citizens United For Renewable Energy (CURE)  
Dr. Bob Allen, Co-Chair, Don't Gas the Pinelands Coalition  
Jennifer Scarlott, Coordinator, Bronx Climate Justice North  
Amy Rosmarin, Executive Director, Earthkeeper Health Resources  
Kim Fraczek, Director, Sane Energy Project  
Rhea Landig, Executive Director, Species Alliance  
Allegra Schechter, Founder, ROAR Against Fracking  
Matthew Mehalik, Executive Director, Breathe Project  
Peter Drobny, Liaison, We Are Seneca Lake

Elaine Cimino, Director, Common Ground Community Trust  
Eric Engle, Chairman, Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action  
Gay Nicholson, President, Sustainable Tompkins  
Stacy Carr-Poole, Executive Director, Bucks County Audubon Society  
Lynda Majors, Chair, Preserve Montgomery County VA  
Claude Bowie, Jr., Fair Compensation for Underground Natural Gas Storage  
David Schreiber, Investment Advisor, Greenvest  
Marie Law, Chair, Preserve Franklin  
Joan L. Farb, Affiliate Leader, Move to Amend- Lower Bucks  
Christine Ellis, Executive Director, Winyah Rivers Alliance  
Nancy LaPlaca, Principal, LaPlaca and Associates LLC  
Debra Bradley, Board Member, Delaware Township Citizens Against the Pipeline.  
Russell Chisholm, Co-Chair, Protect Our Water Heritage Rights (POWHR) Coalition  
David Mucklow, Attorney, Coalition to Reroute Nexus  
Sharon Furlong, Spokesperson, Bucks Environmental Action  
Sharon Furlong, Spokesperson, Bucks County Sierra Club  
Teresa Mills, Ed, Buckeye Environmental Network  
Gwen Fischer, Coordinator, Concerned Citizens Ohio  
Adrienne Morgado, Board Member, 350.Org Bucks County  
Margarita Mercure Hibbs, Co-Founder, Lead Administrator, Our Revolution New Mexico  
Jenni Siri, Co-Founder, Frack Free Four Corners  
Gerri Wiley, Co-Facilitator, Residents Allied For the Future of Tioga (RAFT)  
Mara Robbins, Co-Chair of Preserve Floyd, Preserve Floyd  
Natalie Pien, Activist/Organizer, 350 Loudoun  
James Newsom, Executive Director, Big Bend Conservation Alliance  
Diana Wright, Facilitator, PAUSE - People of Albany United For Safe Energy  
Robert K. Musil, President & CEO, Rachel Carson Council  
Bill Wolf, Co-Chair and President, Preserve Craig, Inc.  
Margaret Herring, Treasurer, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Triangle Branch  
Barbara Daniels, Chair, Environmental Justice Committee, WV Mountain Party  
Jennifer Lewis, President and Founder, Friends of Augusta  
John J. Walkup III, President, Greenbrier River Watershed Association  
Chris Chanlett, Executive Committee, Summers County Residents Against the Pipeline  
Tina Volz-Bongar, Co-Coordinator, Resist Spectra  
Clifford Rowley, Co-Organizer, the RAP - The Health and Environmental Resources Accountability Project  
Liz Peer, Environment Team Lead, Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope  
Caroline Katmann, Executive Director, Sourland Conservancy  
Philip Ateto, Backbone Campaign  
Allegra Schecter, Steering Committee, Stop the Pipeline  
Nancy Tate, Coordinator, LEPOCO Peace Center (Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern)  
Matthew Barad, President, Keep Colorado Green  
Elaine Tanner, Program Director, Friends for Environmental Justice  
Cheryl Nenn, Riverkeeper, Milwaukee Riverkeeper  
Doug O'Malley, Director, Environment New Jersey  
James Cleghorn, Owner, Paradise Gardens and Farm  
Christopher Ely, Inisbliss Farm  
George Billard, Co-Founder, SCRAM

Tina Venini, Coordinator, Partnering With Youth In Community (PYC)  
Linda Park, Convenor, Women Speak Out For Peace and Justice  
Valerie Williams, President, Concerned Stewards of Halifax County - BREDL Chapter  
Richard Averitt, Partner, Rockfish Valley Investments, LLC  
Judy Hogan, Chair, Chatham Citizens Against Coal Ash Dump  
Sara Steele, Publisher, Steeleworks  
Donovan McLaurin, Pres, McLaurin Company Inc.  
Gary Zuckett, Co-Executive Director, WV Citizen Action Group  
Victoria Ronnau, President, Enough Is Enough, Preserve VA  
Larry Baldwin, Waterkeeper, Crystal Coast Waterkeeper  
Larry Baldwin, Executive Director, Coastal Carolina Riverwatch  
Larry Baldwin, Executive Director, White Oak-New Riverkeeper Alliance  
Edwards, Chair, NH Pipeline Health Study Group  
John Weisheit, Conservation Director, Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper  
Aaron Mintzes, Senior Policy Counsel, Earthworks  
Martha Girolami, Member, Chatham Research Group  
Freeman Allan, VSC-ACP Observer, Veterans Service Corps  
Maury Johnson, Co-Founder and Spokesman, Friends of the Narrows of Hans Creek  
Patricia Willis, Environment Committee Chair, Progressives for Positive Change  
Mary Tolmie, Stockton Village Farm  
Roseanna Sacco, President, Preserve Monroe  
Brian Johns, Executive Director, Virginia Organizing  
Timothy Judson, Executive Director, Nuclear Information and Resource Service  
Linda Powell, Outreach Coordinator, Central Jersey Environmental Coordinator  
Jeeva Abbate, Director, Yogaville Environmental Solutions  
Katherine Burns, Chairwoman of Climate Justice Committee, CNY Solidarity Coalition  
Linda Heindel, Member, CCAP Williams Twp.  
Kimi Wei, CEO, The Wei  
Collin Rees, Senior Campaigner, Oil Change USA  
Adrian Kuzminski, Moderator, Sustainable Otsego  
Lynn Ellen Marsh, President, Landscape Alternatives LLC  
Lynn Marsh, Trustee, Advocates For Cherry Valley  
Sue Rosenberg, Co-Founder, Frack Free Catskills  
Doug Couchon, Co-Founder, People for a Healthy Environment  
Doug Couchon, Co-Founder, Elmirans & Friends Against Fracking  
Wes Gillingham, Associate Director, Catskill Mountainkeeper  
Larry Thomas, President, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy  
Heidi Dhivya Berthoud, Founder, Buckingham: We the People  
Otto Butz, Founder, Milford Doers Milford NY  
Dan Taylor, Co-Founder, Concerned Residents of Oxford  
Judith Canepa, Co-Founder, New York Climate Action Group  
Judith Canepa, Coordinator, Coalition Against the Rockaway Pipeline  
Becky Meier, Co-Founder, Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline  
Bob Connors, Co-Founder, Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment  
Rebecca Britton, Organizer, Uwchlan Safety Coalition  
Lewis Freeman, Executive Director, Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance  
Barbara Gottlieb, Director, Environment & Health Program, Physicians for Social Responsibility



Barbara Warren, Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Arizona Chapter

Elisabeth Hoffman, Member, Howard County (MD) Climate Action

Cari Gardner, Co-Chair, Environment Committee, New York Progressive Action Network

Michael Roth, President, Our Santa Fe River, Inc.

Tammy Murphy, Medical Advocacy Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility-  
Philadelphia/Pennsylvania

April Keating, President, Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance

Matt Ott, Steering Committee Member, Long Island Activists

Matt Gove, Mid-Atlantic Policy Manager, Surfrider Foundation

John Valentine, Founder, Mohawk Valley Keeper