

North Carolina General Assembly Senate Chamber State Legislative Building Raleigh, NO 27501–2808

June 30, 2023

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20426

Subject: MVP Southgate Extension of Time (CP19-14-002)

Dear Secretary Bose:

We are writing as elected members of the North Carolina General Assembly who fully support the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission extending the completion date of the MVP Southgate project to June 18, 2026, as Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC, recently requested.

The MVP Southgate project is vital to North Carolina's economic and energy security and will play an integral role in achieving environmental goals outlined in a bipartisan measure approved in 2021 by the state legislature and Gov. Roy Cooper. That legislation, House Bill 951, required electric public utilities to develop plans to reduce carbon emissions by 70 percent by 2030.

Utilities' efforts will undoubtedly require greater use of natural gas because it is affordable and capable of providing the baseload electricity needed to power North Carolina. Furthermore, conversion of our state's existing coal-fired electric generation plants to natural gas is the most cost-effective way to reduce carbon emissions, protect ratepayers and ensure reliable electric service.

North Carolina currently relies on one interstate transmission pipeline system for direct access to natural gas. An additional interstate natural gas supply system is critical to our state's security, and the North Carolina Utilities Commission has recognized such a system would serve the public interest. This need became especially clear in 2021, when a cyberattack disabled the Colonial Pipeline, our state's primary liquid fuels pipeline. An additional source of natural gas supply would provide important capacity and an alternative means for ensuring our state has the energy it needs.





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While Congress continues to work on comprehensive permitting reform for critical energy infrastructure, we were pleased to see bipartisan support for completing the Mountain Valley Pipeline project in West Virginia and Virginia. In approving the federal

Fiscal Responsibility Act, Congress and President Biden declared completion and operation of the MVP was required in the national interest. This legislation continues:

"The Mountain Valley Pipeline will serve demonstrated natural gas demand in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast regions, will increase the reliability of natural gas supplies and the availability of natural gas at reasonable prices, will allow natural gas producers to access additional markets for their product, and will reduce carbon emissions and facilitate the energy transition."

By connecting to the Mountain Valley Pipeline and bringing an additional supply of natural gas directly into North Carolina, the MVP Southgate project will satisfy these same public interests. As proposed, MVP Southgate would transport up to 375 million cubic feet of natural gas per day. Dominion Energy North Carolina, a local distribution company serving homes and businesses across our state, has signed a long-term agreement to receive gas from the project. This proposed interstate natural gas transmission pipeline also would maintain open access, providing significant opportunity for large end users in the project's vicinity.

As policymakers, we have worked hard to foster conditions that have led to greater prosperity and population growth across North Carolina. We are committed to building on these successes. To do so, we must have greater supplies of natural gas and additional infrastructure to transport it safely, efficiently, and reliably.

For these reasons, we support the MVP Southgate project and respectfully request the FERC grant Mountain Valley's request to extend the project's completion date to June 18, 2026.

Sincerely,

W. Ted Alexander

NC Senate - District 44

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Lisa S. Barnes

NC Senate - District 11

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Phil Berger NC Senate – District 26

Danny Earl Britt, Jr.

NC Senate - District 24

James A Bengin

Jim Burgin NC Senate – District 12

Kevin Corbin NC Senate – District 50

David W. Craven, Jr.

David W. Craven, Jr. NC Senate – District 29

Warren Daniel

NC Senate - District 46

Wave Daniel

Carl Ford

NC Senate - District 33

Bobby Hanig

NC Senate - District 3

Spapel E Han In

Ralph Hise

NC Senate - District 47

Brent Jackson

NC Senate - District 9





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Brent Jackson NC Senate – District 30

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Joyce Krawiec NC Senate – District 31

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Michael V. Lee NC Senate – District 7

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Timothy D. Moffit NC Senate – District 48

NC Senate -- District 34

Paul Newton

Todd Johnson

NC Senate - District 35

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Michael A. Lazzara NC Senate – District 6

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Tom McInnis NC Senate – District 21

Buck Newton NC Senate – District 4

Brad Overcosh

Brad Overcash
NC Senate – District 43





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Jim Perry NC Senate - District 2

Bill Rabon NC Senate - District 8

Benton G. Sawrey NC Senate - District 10

Eddi D. Settle

Eddie D. Settle NC Senate - District 36

Dean Proctor NC Senate – District 45

Norman Sanderson/20 Norman W. Sanderson NC Senate – District 1

Vickie Sawyer



