

VOICES  
Victory Over InFRACKstructure, Clean Energy InStead

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**120 Groups Call on Congress for Immediate Action on  
Pipeline and FERC Reform**

**Washington, D.C.:** Accusing Congress of now being “complicit in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) abuses” against communities, the environment, states’ rights and future generations because of the impacts fracking and FERC fracked gas pipelines have for climate change, 120 organizations representing over 400,000 people from pipeline impacted communities from across the nation once again have called on Congress’ Energy and Commerce Committee to undertake congressional hearings to investigate FERC and put in place reforms of the Natural Gas Act.

The letter reads:

Congressional “rhetoric and campaign slogans of interest, care or concern for the devastating impacts of pipelines and climate change are of no value if they are not backed by action. For years we have been asking for congressional hearings and for years we have been told that you, the Chairs of key committees, did not have the power to implement our request. Well, now you have had that power for nearly a year and still all we hear is rhetoric.”

“Time is running out for Congress to take action to investigate FERC’s abuses against communities, landowners, states, our environment and future generations. The international scientific community has been clear, we have one short decade in which to take the strong action necessary to replace our dependence on fossil fuels with a commitment to clean energy technologies that will provide energy, protect our environment and stop the onslaught of harm inflicted by the climate changing emissions released by fracking and its infrastructure. Rather than work to advance clean energy, FERC is taking property rights and state’s rights and continuing its 100% approval rate of fracked gas pipelines. The abuses inflicted by FERC on people’s rights, states’ rights, our environment and future generations is obscene. Equally as obscene is Congress’ refusal to do anything about it,” said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and leading member of the anti-pipeline VOICES Coalition.** “Time is fast running out. If Congressional, democratic and presidential candidates want to show us that they truly care about climate change and future generations, it is time for them to institute the natural gas act reforms we have been asking for years.”

“FERC is an example of an agency that has flouted its almost unlimited power and in doing so, has trampled the rights of individuals and indeed, entire communities in its support of flagrant abuses of eminent domain. It has not taken into consideration what the science and most of the world is indicating is the dangerous results of the use of fossil fuels: weather changes bringing disasters on a regular basis all over the planet, destruction of Life in all of its forms, increased disease proliferation, drought and the drying out of soils, ice melting bringing ocean rises, and pollution, pollution, pollution. It is complicit in the poisoning of Life on this planet,” said **Sharon Furlong, Co-Founder and Spokesperson Bucks Environmental Action.**

"There are two parties in Washington and the people aren't invited to either one of them. What else are we to think when, for years, we have been exposing FERC as an abuser of the power it wields over pipeline projects and Congress continues to look the other way? Now we are facing a crisis with a hard deadline. FERC's flouting of court orders directing them to consider the climate impacts of the projects they approve should be considered a crime against nature, yet Congress says nothing. Silence is complicity,” said **Karen Feridun, Founder of Berks Gas Truth.**

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**Delaware Riverkeeper Network ~ Berks Gas Truth**  
**A Thousand Friends of Virginia's Future ~ Bucks County Sierra Club**  
**Bucks Environmental Action ~ Durham Township Environmental Advisory Council**  
**ECHO Action NH ~ Environmental Justice Task Force of the WNY Peace Center, Inc.**  
**Franklin Township Task Force ~ Friends of Buckingham**  
**Genesis Farm ~ Homeowners Against Land Taking ~ LAWPA**  
**Murrysville Watch Committee ~ NH Energy Impacts on Health Study Group**  
**Occupy Bergen County (NJ) ~ Otsego 2000, Inc.**  
**OVEC- Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition ~ Peacemakers of Schoharie County**  
**Resist the Pipeline ~ Sanford-Oquaga Area Concerned Citizens**  
**Sourland Conservancy ~ Stop Algonquin Pipeline Expansion**  
**Sustainable Medina County (OH) ~ Sustainable Otsego ~ The Banner**  
**Tidewaters Gateway Partnership**  
**UBCAMP (Upper Burrell Citizens Against Marcellus Pollution)**  
**WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc. ~ Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War**  
**Central Jersey Environmental Defenders ~ Citizens for Water**  
**Damascus Citizens for Sustainability ~ NYH2o**  
**Philip Rainford Electrical Contractor, Inc.**  
**Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development ~ 350Brooklyn**  
**Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy ~ FreshWater Accountability Project**  
**Stop the Pipeline ~ 25 Solar ~ Buckhannon River Watershed Association**  
**Communities for Safe and Sustainable Energy ~ Cooks Creek Watershed Association**  
**Durham Historical Society ~ Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking**  
**ICARE ~ IWLA Allegheny County chapter**  
**Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance ~ People for a Healthy Environment**  
**ShaleShockCNY ~ Sierra Club ~ Unique Pool Service**  
**Beyond Extreme Energy ~ Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline, NJ**  
**Delaware Township Citizens Against the Pipeline (DTCAP)**  
**Environment New Jersey ~ Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership**  
**NJ Sierra Club ~ Berkshire Environmental Action Team**  
**Breathe Easy Susquehanna County ~ Common Ground Rising**  
**Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment ~ Compressor Free Franklin**  
**Concerned Residents of Oxford ~ Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society**  
**ExtrACTION (Anthropology Research Group) ~ Friends of Nelson**  
**Indian Creek Watershed Association ~ Lebanon Pipeline Awareness**  
**LEPOCO Peace Center ~ Marshalls Automotive ~ Middlefield Neighbors**  
**No Fracked Gas in Mass ~ Physicians for Social Responsibility- PA**  
**Plymouth Friends of Clean Water ~ Project CoffeeHouse**  
**Responsible Drilling Alliance ~ Safe Energy Rights Group (SEnRG)**  
**Seneca Lake Guardian, Waterkeeper Alliance Affiliate ~ South Coast Neighbors United**  
**Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline ~ Tinker Tree Play/Care**  
**Transition Town Media ~ We are Seneca Lake**  
**Coalition to Protect New York ~ Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network**  
**Clean Water Action ~ Central Group Sierra ~ Frackbusters NY**

**Kingston Greenways Association ~ Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper**  
**Oil Change International ~ Pringle Associates LLC**  
**Progressives for Positive Change ~ Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga (RAFT)**  
**Resist Spectra ~ Rochester Defense Against Fracking**  
**Schuylkill Pipeline Awareness ~ Union County (NJ) Peace Council**  
**Virginia Citizens Consumer Council**  
**Guernsey County Citizens Support on Drilling Issues ~ Protect Orange County**  
**Citizens United for Renewable Energy (CURE)**  
**NEOGAP (Network for Oil and Gas Accountability and Protection)**  
**Paradise Gardens and Farm ~ Protect Our Water Heritage Rights (POWHR)**  
**Preserve Salem ~ Preserve Giles County**  
**Columbus Community Bill of Rights ~ Preserve Montgomery County VA**  
**Chatham Research Group ~ ClimateMama**  
**Preserve Franklin ~ WILPF Triangle**  
**Greenbrier River Watershed Association ~ Committee to preserve the finger lakes**  
**Indivisible Lambertville / New Hope**

October 22, 2019

Chairman Frank Pallone  
House Energy & Commerce Committee

**RE: Congressional Hearings to Investigate Abuses of Power and Law by FERC**  
**It's Time for Your Committees to DO SOMETHING!**

Dear Chair Frank Pallone and Members of the Committee:

**You, your committee and the 2019 Congress are now complicit in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) abuses of our communities, our environment, our states and our future generations.** Your failure to act to hold congressional hearings to learn about FERC's abuses of power and law, and then to initiate needed legislative reforms, is helping FERC advance the pipelines that are advancing climate change and disasters, stripping people of their property rights, damaging family farms and businesses, and are the cause of accidents, incidents and explosions that are very literally killing and injuring people and devastating their lives.

**It is time for Congress to DO SOMETHING!** Your rhetoric and campaign slogans of interest, care or concern for the devastating impacts of pipelines and climate change are of no value if they are not backed by action. For years we have been asking for congressional hearings and for years we have been told that you, the Chairs of key committees, did not have the power to implement our request. Well, now you have had that power for nearly a year and still all we hear is rhetoric.

**And now FERC is once again tearing at the fabric of our laws in order to strip from states and communities, even further, the last bit of power we have to protect our communities and our future generations from the devastating environmental and climate changing impacts of pipelines.** FERC has ruled that in the case of the Constitution pipeline, where New York State ultimately denied Clean Water Act 401 Certification, that the date of submission of the application for purposes of determining whether the state had denied certification within a reasonable time as required by law was

not the last time the pipeline company submitted its application for review, but in fact was the date of an earlier application that the company had withdrawn. It is an absurd decision clearly designed to undermine states' rights and to ram through yet another climate changing FERC fracked gas pipeline.

**It is time for Congressional hearings into FERC's abuses of power and law.** Our VOICES (Victory Over Infrackstructure, Clean Energy inStead) Coalition is here to help expose FERC's ongoing assault on our communities, our environment, and our future ability to survive impending climate destruction. We have provided you a dossier of evidence of abuses ( <http://bit.ly/DossierofFERCAbuse> ) and we can provide you with witnesses from impacted communities across the nation that can provide riveting and relevant testimony on the many ways FERC's abuses are impacting states' rights; property rights; due process rights; our waterways, forests and climate change; our health and safety; property values, family farms, small businesses, jobs and communities.

We have provided you recommendations for common sense and much needed legislative reforms.

We have listened to and applauded your rhetoric about the harms of fracked gas pipelines and your concerns about the devastating impacts of climate change.

**And now we tell you to stop talking and to start acting. It is time for you to Do Something.** It is time for you to initiate hearings in your committees to investigate FERC's abuses of power and law and to advance the much-needed legislative reforms these hearings will identify. Undertaking this step will not only address the many abuses of FERC but will also help stop the current Trump administration's regulatory rollback proposal that further undermines states' rights as a clear and stated effort to advancing fossil fuel infrastructure and their climate changing emissions.

Respectfully requested,

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, Delaware Riverkeeper Network

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Jim Schulman, President, A Thousand Friends of Virginia's Future

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Sharon Furlong, Spokesperson, Bucks Environmental Action

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Charley Bowman, Chair, Environmental Justice Task Force of the WNY Peace Center, Inc.

Carol Kuehn, Franklin Township Task Force

Chad Oba, Friends of Buckingham

Miriam MacGillis, Director, Genesis Farm

Vince DiBianca, Chairperson & Trustee, Homeowners Against Land Taking

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Gail Musante, Sanford-Oquaga Area Concerned Citizens

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Kathie Jones, Organizer, Sustainable Medina County (OH)  
Adrian Kuzminski, Moderator, Sustainable Otsego  
Dwain Wilder, Editor/Publisher, The Banner  
Richard McNutt, President, Tidewaters Gateway Partnership  
Ron Slabe, Director, UBCAMP (Upper Burrell Citizens Against Marcellus Pollution)  
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Linda Powell, Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War  
Linda Powell, Outreach Coordinator, Central Jersey Environmental Defenders  
Joe Levine, Director, Citizens for Water  
B. Arrindell, Director, Damascus Citizens for Sustainability  
Buck Moorhead, Chair, NYH2o  
Philip and Vanessa Rainford, Philip Rainford Electrical Contractor, Inc.  
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April Pierson Keating, Board Member, Sierra Club  
David Wood, Owner, Unique Pool Service  
Ted Glick, Organizer, Beyond Extreme Energy  
Ken Dolsky, Co-Founder, Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline, NJ  
Debra Bradley, Secretary, Delaware Township Citizens Against the Pipeline (DTCAP)  
Doug O'Malley, Director, Environment New Jersey  
Michael Shakarjian, Trustee, Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership  
Jeff Tittel, Senior Chapter Director, NJ Sierra Club  
Rosemary Wessel, Berkshire Environmental Action Team  
Rebecca Roter, Chairperson, Breathe Easy Susquehanna County  
Elaine Cimino, Common Ground Rising  
Becky Meier, Co-Founder, Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment  
Don Hebbard, Founding Member/President, Compressor Free Franklin  
Dan Taylor, Co-Founder, Concerned Residents of Oxford  
Andrew Mason, Co-President, Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society  
Jeanne Simonelli, ExtrACTION (Anthropology Research Group)  
Helen Kimble, President, Friends of Nelson  
Howdy Henritz, President, Indian Creek Watershed Association  
Ann Pinca, President, Lebanon Pipeline Awareness  
Nancy Tate, LEPOCO Peace Center  
Barry Marshall, Marshalls Automotive  
Kelly Branigan, Founding Member, Middlefield Neighbors

Rosemary Wessel, Program Director, No Fracked Gas in Mass  
Tammy Murphy, Medical Advocacy Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility- PA  
Peter Hudiberg, Founder, Plymouth Friends of Clean Water  
Barbara Jarmoska, President, Project CoffeeHouse  
Robert Cross, President, Responsible Drilling Alliance  
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Yvonne Taylor, Vice President, Seneca Lake Guardian, Waterkeeper Alliance Affiliate  
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Patricia Willis, Environment Chair, Progressives for Positive Change  
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William Lyons, Co-organizer, Columbus Community Bill of Rights  
Lynda Majors, Chair, Preserve Montgomery County VA  
Martha Girolami, Member, Chatham Research Group  
Harriet Shugarman, Executive Director, ClimateMama  
Eric Anspaugh, Chair, Preserve Franklin  
Lib Hutchby, Water Committee member, WILPF Triangle  
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Elizabeth Peer, Environment Team Lead, Indivisible Lambertville / New Hope