



WEST VIRGINIA RIVERS

May 23, 2023

President Joseph Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear President Biden and Leader Schumer,

The undersigned organizations join in urging you to protect West Virginians' right to fair and equal treatment under the law. We stand with over 800 West Virginians and allies that have also written you to voice their concern about the unjust approval of the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) proposed in the "Building American Energy Security Act of 2023" and the "RESTART Act". As you're aware, this legislation changes how federal agencies handle energy projects and takes a dangerous and unprecedented step of requiring agencies to expedite the issuance of all permits for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) without further public involvement or judicial review.

The recent Executive Order (EO), *Revitalizing our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All*, reinforced a commitment to just treatment and meaningful involvement so that people are fully protected from disproportionate environmental effects and hazards. The EO's fact sheet stated that this action is working to ensure that all people "can benefit from the vital safeguards enshrined in our nation's foundational environmental and civil rights laws". The proposed MVP provision does the opposite. It flies in the face of the EO's commitment to West Virginians.

The proposed MVP provision is a deeply troubling signal from elected officials that our communities are seen and treated as not worthy of equal protection. We are already paying the price of decades of environmental degradation and increased health risks as a fossil fuel energy sacrifice zone. Please uphold the value that our people deserve full protections under the law and urge Senate leaders to reject the unjust approval of the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

Urgently,

Conserving and Restoring West Virginia's Exceptional Rivers and Streams

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West Virginia organizations

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Our Future West Virginia

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West Virginia Citizen Action Group

Rev. Jeffrey S. Allen
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West Virginia

Regional allied organizations

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7 Directions of Service

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198 methods