

# Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

### **League Files Pipeline Intervention, Finds 3 Fatal Flaws in Pipeline Permit**

*Mountain Valley Pipeline's Application to the FERC for Certificate of Convenience and Necessity Ignores Health and Safety of Children, Violates Environmental Justice Regulations and Disregards Protected Water and Wildlife*

Today Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) took legal action to challenge the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) by filing a motion to intervene and protest the process. After a careful review of MVP's resource reports regarding the proposed project, the League cited crucial information that challenges the MVP's request for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity on three grounds.

First, BREDL's petition cited the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children. The petition stated: "Each representative from this task force must be consulted and those consultations must include recommendations that must be considered before any decision is made regarding this proposed project in order to accurately identify and address potential harm to children."

Jonas Reilly is 15 years old and his family's home and farm are in the path of the proposed MVP. Jonas stated, in response to BREDL's filing: "This pipeline would be 42 inches wide. My six year old sister could walk through this without ducking! I just wonder if the MVP employees feel that something is wrong with what they're doing. I want them to know that what they are being paid to do will hurt so many people's lives, businesses, and homes. If this pipeline comes through here, or anywhere, it will destroy a beautiful, rural part of America, our home."

Carolyn Reilly, Jonas's mother, said that she would take every measure possible to ensure that her children are kept safe from the dangers of fossil fuel extraction and transportation. "It's become more and more

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apparent that harm done by toxic industrial chemicals causes permanent damage. I'll do everything in my power to hold these companies and government agencies accountable to their responsibility to protect not only my children, but the children all over this region who are already sick from exposure to dangerous pollutants in the water and air.”

Second, the petition stated that Environmental Justice has been repeatedly violated during the public comment period for the Mountain Valley Pipeline. For example, citizens who are economically disadvantaged were not allowed the opportunity to voice concerns regarding the project because they could not afford to travel to a FERC scoping meeting. This is a violation of the Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's fundamental environmental justice principles: “To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.” BREDL's petition insists that FERC must correct this injustice.

Third, according to their current proposed route, the MVP plans to cross Bottom Creek in Bent Mountain, VA. This creek is classified as a Tier III Exceptional State Water, an “Outstanding National Resource Water.” There are only thirty Exceptional State Waters designated in Virginia. Bottom Creek is protected is because it is home to several endangered species. “It is inconceivable that the proposed MVP could acquire the many State and Federal permits they'd need to build this pipeline across Bottom Creek,” said Mara Robbins, BREDL's Virginia Coordinator. “The permits required to cross these pristine, protected waterways are stringent, but when you add the risk to the rare and fragile wildlife within and nearby the creek, it's utterly irresponsible that they even proposed to proceed with construction in such a vulnerable area.”

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*The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League is a 31-year old community-based, non-profit environmental organization with chapters in seven states. Our founding principles are earth stewardship, environmental democracy, social justice, and community empowerment.*