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## **All Pipeline Options Rejected by Mountain Organizations Environmental Impact Statement Fatally Flawed**

Virginia – Today, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL), in comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, called upon the agency to select the no-build option for the Mountain Valley Pipeline. In its analysis of the Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) for the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline, BREDL found many flaws and a lack of thorough study and documentation, from erosion and sedimentation to electromagnetic effects when pipelines are near high voltage electric lines.

Other problems noted in BREDL's 100-page document included violation of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), destruction of historic and archeological sites, improper use of eminent domain for exports, and collocation with electric transmission lines.

Mike Carter, outgoing chairman of Preserve Franklin, reflected on the fight thus far, saying, "We have put up quite a battle against a large foe and we've made great strides in stopping the proposed pipeline. The MVP would bring nothing but damage to our county as well as major expenses and hardships for future generations."

Incoming chairman for Preserve Franklin, Bonnie Law, voiced her concerns about the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's industry-funded framework. "Follow the money trail. They're the fox guarding the hen-house," Law said. As a newly affected landowner due to a MVP route change in Franklin County, Law shared her frustration, stating, "No one is ever going to convince me that a private group of investors from Pittsburgh is entitled to my land. Preserve Franklin intends to press forward in our fight, especially with regards to property rights."

Roberta "Bert" Bondurant, leader of Preserve Roanoke, echoed Law's statements adding, "FERC has been under fire for its incestuous relationship with the Gas industry. Dedicated FERC officials have an opportunity to redeem the commission in cooperating with agencies in addressing the environment, the economy and cultural resources. A responsible analysis would ultimately deny construction of the MVP. And a vigilant and democratic government--of the people--should not, through an inadequate DEIS, facilitate the taking of our communities by eminent domain for private gain. We will not tolerate it."

Collocation along the route of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) was included in the DEIS. BREDL's comments made clear their position, pointing to a no-location alternative and denying the permit for the proposed MVP. Mara Robbins, a member of Preserve Floyd, discussed the collocation of the MVP, saying, "These alternative movements of the proposed pipeline should really be called "collococations" because the Mountain Valley Pipeline needs to be dumped."

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