VOICES: Victory Over InFRACKstructure; Clean Energy Instead
Delaware Riverkeeper Network ~ Berks Gas Truth
Physicians for Social Responsibility (PA) ~ Green Amendments For the Generations
Virginia Citizens Consumer Council
Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community
Homeowners Against Land Taking (HALT) ~ NY Water Action
Delaware Township Citizens Against the Pipeline
Ann's Choice Progressives for Positive Change
Williams Township Citizens Against the Pipeline
Lebanon Pipeline Awareness ~ Marshalls Automotive ~ Fenton Inn
Occupy Bergen County ~ Rockfish Valley Investments, LLC
Preserve Montgomery County VA ~ WildEarth Guardians
Upper Uwchlan Residents for Safety
Bucks County Concerned Citizens Against the Pipelines
Breathe Easy Susquehanna County ~ New Energy Economy
EnvironmentaLEE ~ FracTracker Alliance
Yogaville Environmental Solutions ~ Kingwood Citizens Against PennEast Pipeline
Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition ~ Preserve Giles County
Climate Justice Committee of CNY Solidarity Coalition
Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition
PNM Shareholders for a Responsible Future ~ Save Carbon County
Rio Arriba Concerned Citizens ~ Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights (POWHR)
Tewa Women United ~ Sound Rivers ~ Preserve Floyd
Wimberley Valley Watershed Association ~ 350 Triangle
Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga
Canton Residents for a Sustainable Equitable Future
Concern Citizens of Northampton County ~ Clean Water for North Carolina
Rachel Carson Council ~ Green Sanctuary UU Church of Reading
Center for Biological Diversity ~ Better Path Coalition
No Fracked Gas in Mass ~ Roseland Against Compressor Station (RACS)
Extinction Rebellion DE ~ Protect Our Commonwealth
Popular Resistance ~ Patriots From The Oil & Gas Shales
Resist the Pipeline ~ LAWPA ~ People for a Healthy Environment
Bucks Environmental Action ~ Lancaster Against Pipelines
South East North Carolina Climate, Justice and Disaster Recovery (Ministries) Project
Upper Burrell Citizens Against Marcellus Pollution ~ EcoRobeson
350 Charlotte ~ Gas Free Seneca ~ Seneca Lake Guardian
Sane Energy Project ~ NC WARN
Already Devalued and Devastated Homeowners of Parsippany
Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline– NJ ~ Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
Food & Water Watch ~ Beyond Extreme Energy
Alliance to Protect the People and the Places We Live (NC)
Alliance for Affordable Energy ~ SCIPL ~ Gardening for Change
Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light
Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network ~ Dogwood Alliance
Schuylkill Pipeline Awareness ~ Allegheny County Clean Air Now
Kingston Greenways Association ~ Friends of Buckingham
Darkstar Consulting, Inc. ~ Eco Justice Collaborative ~ GoodLife Homes
Earth Action, Inc. ~ Mt. Airy Psychotherapy & Wellness
Pivot Point ~ NW Philly Climate Action ~ PennEnvironment
Mount Triumph Baptist Church ~ Reclaim Augusta
Preserve Monroe ~ Berkshire Environmental Action Team
Uwchlan Safety Coalition ~ Green Latinos ~ Yellow Horse Farms
Camp White Pine ~ Women's Earth and Climate Action Network
Protect PT (Penn-Trafford) ~ Kentucky Resources Council, Inc.
Citizens' Climate Lobby Louisville Chapter ~ Echo Valley Hope
Howard County (HoCo) Climate Action, Maryland
Center for International Environmental Law
Clean Water Action ~ Cloud Gate PGH ~ Toxics Action Center
Friends for Environmental Justice ~ Climate Hawks Vote
Anthropocene Alliance ~ Vestal Residents for Safe Energy
Virginia Pipeline Resisters ~ 350 New Orleans ~ R.O.U.T.E.
Edgmont Community Safety Coalition ~ Eastern Panhandle Protectors
Plymouth Friends for Clean Water ~ 350 Wilmington
Kentucky Beyond Fossil Fuels ~ Earthkeeper Health Resources
MA Mothers Out Front ~ FrackBustersNY ~ Environment New Jersey
198 methods ~ Unitarian Universalist Mass Action ~ Project CoffeeHouse
Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA) ~ Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Hopewell Township Citizens Against the PennEast Pipeline
Kentucky Heartwood ~ Citizen's Alliance Upholding a Safe Environment
NYC-Grassroots Alliance ~ NJ Sierra Club ~ Athens County's Future Action Network
Sustainable Sharon Coalition ~ RK Photography
DAMASCUS Citizens for Sustainability ~ Kentucky Conservation Committee
North Parish of North Andover Climate Justice Task Force
Residents Against the Power Plant ~ Robert Monk Electric
LaPlaca and Associates LLC ~ Oil Change International
Climate Action Now, Western Mass
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Triangle Chapter (WILPF)
Preserve Rural Randolph ~ Neighbors Against the Gas Plants
Millville Community Market ~ Mountain Watershed Association
To Decision Makers Across the U.S.,

As our nation’s leading decisionmakers you are charged with protecting all the people of our nation, including the health, safety and rights of future generations. In order to fulfill this duty during the
ongoing COVID-19 crisis, we call for a moratorium on the construction and approval of shale-gas pipeline projects and LNG export facilities.

A moratorium on Construction of Shale Gas Pipelines & Export Facilities is essential to protect against the spread of COVID-19, to ensure emergency and medical services are not further taxed or diverted to address avoidable harms, and to ensure the sacrifice being made by people and communities across our nation who are dutifully sheltering in place is not undermined, undone or replaced by new threats and harms.

State governments are asking all non-essential businesses to shut down and for people to shelter in place, yet construction of pipelines and LNG export facilities continue under government exemption -- to the danger and detriment of all.

A moratorium on pipeline construction is needed to protect public health, state resources and our environment.

Federal regulators are curtailing enforcement of construction mandates and environmental protection regulations, leaving it to states already struggling to address the ongoing pandemic to fill the void or expose their residents, communities and environment to irreparable harm.

- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced relaxation of environmental rules and enforcement. State officials will be left to investigate and document violations and press for needed response when safety and environmental laws are violated. States are already restricting public and business activities to avoid overwhelming limited resources. Leaving oversight of industrial construction and operations to already overtaxed state governments puts communities at risk of additional harm.

- The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued a stay on enforcement for pipeline and LNG facilities relaxing employee qualification standards, training mandates and drug testing. Further rule relaxation is anticipated. Removing oversight, training, drug checks, staffing and monitoring mandates will increase the likelihood of accidents and explosions, increasing the risk of catastrophic health, safety and environmental incidents putting communities in increased jeopardy and emergency resources further overwhelmed.

A moratorium on pipeline construction will prevent additional strains on our emergency and medical workers.

Numerous states, including Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina, are quarantining residents while allowing pipeline construction to continue unabated. This encourages spread of COVID-19 and unnecessarily increases the workload of emergency and medical services:

- Pipeline construction workers are crossing state lines, raising the risk of COVID-19 community spread from one state and community to another. Communities are being forced to beg for state action to help protect them from cross-border virus spread.

- Workers who can’t or won’t adhere to requirements for social distancing on the work site raise the risk of coronavirus spread.
Ongoing construction, even in the best of circumstances, increases the risk of accidents and explosions. On average there are over 100 natural gas pipeline accidents/incidents/explosions that inflict injury and death and cause over $1.2 million in yearly damages.

COVID-19 community spread and the heightened risk of harm from pipeline/LNG construction accidents are avoidable risks that can be prevented with a moratorium.

A moratorium on Approval of Shale Gas Pipelines & Export Facilities is essential to ensure the rights of impacted communities are protected, particularly communities of color and low income communities who already bear the brunt of environmental injustice, and to ensure industry and government is not misusing this pandemic to lock in our climate crisis.

A moratorium on approval of fracked-gas pipelines and LNG export facilities is essential to protect the rights of the public to meaningfully participate in our government.

The public participation process is being severely compromised by quarantine and shelter in place restrictions on communities. While the industry is being given countless exceptions, exemptions and extensions of deadlines and legal obligations, equivalent accommodations are not provided to the public and non-governmental organizations -- comment deadlines remain unchanged, and hearings are being canceled or replaced with inferior technological strategies.

Regardless of good intentions and genuine effort, on-line hearings about consequential government decisions -- such as approving fracked-gas pipelines and export facilities -- are no substitute for in-person and real-time access. Even in the best of times many residents lack access to web-based systems, whether computer or phone; libraries and schools that customarily fill this need are now closed; home computers must be shared by family members now that “distance learning” and online meetings are widespread for business, education and entertainment -- straining their availability and internet bandwidth. Too many impacted residents are ill or taking care of others.

Advancing approval of major infrastructure projects during a national emergency prevents a meaningful opportunity for public engagement promised them by law, puts undue pressure on people who are already struggling to meet their basic needs, and disenfranchises those who will be significantly harmed by the decisions made without their participation.

A moratorium on pipeline and LNG construction and approvals is essential for ensuring that the COVID crisis is not used to advance the climate crisis.

The COVID crisis is inflicting irreparable harm on people, families, communities and our economy. The costs of climate change to our country and the world will be even more brutal. And yet, many in government and industry are taking advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to advance their business interests and to lock in the most devastating and polluting aspects of our climate crisis, posing an existential threat for future generations.

The WHO estimates that climate change is causing more than 150,000 deaths annually; a loss that will increase exponentially. Extreme weather and climate change threats to public health will cost the U.S. hundreds of billions of dollars every year, a cost that will soar to unprecedented levels. And climate
change will help spread viruses like COVID-19, communicable diseases, parasites and bacteria by extending their breeding seasons and accelerating their geographical expansion. We cannot allow the COVID-19 pandemic to be misused to further lock in a fracked-gas future.

The COVID-19 Crisis has forced us to take drastic action. It is also critical that our response to the Climate Crisis be just as strong, powerful and effective and that includes ensuring that the ongoing pandemic does not undermine our climate change response opportunities or efforts. A moratorium on approval and construction of additional fracked gas infrastructure, a major source of climate changing emissions, is an essential step for both COVID-19 and Climate protection. Place a moratorium on construction and approval of shale-gas pipeline projects and LNG export facilities.

With urgency,

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Karen Feridun, Founder, Berks Gas Truth
Tammy Murphy, Advocacy Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Maya van Rossum, Founder, Green Amendments For the Generations
Irene Leech, President, Virginia Citizens Consumer Council
Terrie Baumgardner, Outreach Director, Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community
Vincent DiBianca, Chairman/Trustee, Homeowners Against Land Taking (HALT)
Ann L Finneran, Member, NY Water Action
Debra Bradley, Secretary, Delaware Township Citizens Against the Pipeline.
Thomas and Patricia Willis, Environment Chair, Ann’s Choice Progressives for Positive Change
Linda Heindel, Member, Williams Township Citizens Against the Pipeline
Ann Pinca, President, Lebanon Pipeline Awareness
Barry Marshall, Owner, Marshalls Automotive
Will and Lilia Fenton, Owner, Fenton Inn
Sally Jane Gellert, Member, Occupy Bergen County
Richard Averitt, Partner, Rockfish Valley Investments, LLC
Lynda Majors, Chair, Preserve Montgomery County VA
Rebecca Sobel, Senior Campaigner, WildEarth Guardians
Chris Digiulio, Founder, Upper Uwchlan Residents for Safety
Arianne Elinich, Founder, Bucks County Concerned Citizens Against the Pipelines
Rebecca Roter, Chairperson, Breathe Easy Susquehanna County
Mariel Nanasi, Executive Director, New Energy Economy
Keely Wood, Co-Chair, EnvironmentaLEE
Brook Lenker, Executive Director, FracTracker Alliance
Jeeva Abbate, Director, Yogaville Environmental Solutions
Deborah Kratzer, Chairperson, Kingwood Citizens Against PennEast Pipeline
Adam Flint, Director of Clean Energy Programs, Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition
Donna Pitt, Coordinator, Preserve Giles County
Katherine Burns, Chairperson, Climate Justice Committee of CNY Solidarity Coalition
Marie McRae, Spokesperson, Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition
Wendy Volkmann, Co-Director, PNM Shareholders for a Responsible Future
Linda Christman, President, Save Carbon County
Peggy Baker, Board Member, Liaison, Government Affairs, Rio Arriba Concerned Citizens
Russell Chisholm, Co-Chair, Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights (POWHR)
Elder Kathy Sanchez & Beata Tsosie-Pena, Environmental Health and Justice Program, Tewa Women United
Betsy Hester, Board Member, Sound Rivers
Mara Robbins, Member, Preserve Floyd
David Baker, Executive Director, Wimberley Valley Watershed Association
Karen Bearden, 350 Triangle Coordinator, 350 Triangle
Gerri Wiley, Facilitator, Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga
Jennifer Wexler, President, Canton Residents for a Sustainable Equitable Future
Belinda Joyner, President, Concern Citizens of Northampton County
Hope Taylor, Executive Director, Clean Water for North Carolina
Bob Musil, President & CEO, Rachel Carson Council
Gail Page, Green Sanctuary UU Church of Reading
Jean Su, Energy Justice Director, Center for Biological Diversity
Karen Feridun, Co-Founder, Better Path Coalition
Rosemary Wessel, Program Director, No Fracked Gas in Mass
Mary Kushner, Roseland Against Compressor Station (RACS)
Rebecca Ersek, Outreach Coordinator, Extinction Rebellion DE
Freeda Cathcart, Director, Protect Our Commonwealth
Kevin Zeese, Co-Director, Popular Resistance
Craig Stevens, Founder, Patriots From The Oil & Gas Shales
James Michel, Co-Founder, Resist the Pipeline
Debra Borowiec, Coordinator, LAWPA
Doug Couchon, Co-Founder, Board Member, People for a Healthy Environment
Sharon Furlong, Spokesperson, Bucks Environmental Action
Tim Spiese, President, Lancaster Against Pipelines
Gail McAfee, Co-Founder/Co-Director, South East North Carolina Climate, Justice and Disaster Recovery (Ministries) Project
Ron Slabe, President, Upper Burrell Citizens Against Marcellus Pollution
Robie Goins, President, EcoRobeson
Jerome Wagner, Lead Organizer, 350 Charlotte
Yvonne Taylor, Vice President, Gas Free Seneca
Joseph Campbell, President, Seneca Lake Guardian
Kim Fraczek, Director, Sane Energy Project
Jim Warren, Executive Director, NC WARN
Ken Dolsky, Founder, Already Devalued and Devastated Homeowners of Parsippany
Ken Dolsky, Co-Founder, Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline - NJ
Ken Dolsky, Co-Founder/ Organizer, Don’t Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director, Food & Water Watch
Ted Glick, Organizer, Beyond Extreme Energy
Steven Norris, Vice President, Alliance to Protect the People and the Places We Live (NC)
Logan Burke, Executive Director, Alliance for Affordable Energy
Dallas Conyers, Program Coordinator, SCIPL
Su Stout, Executive Director, Gardening for Change
LeeAnne Beres, Executive Director, Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light
Mary Hufford, Associate Director, Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network
Emily Zucchino, Director of Community Engagement, Dogwood Alliance
Faith Zerbe, Co-Founder, Schuylkill Pipeline Awareness
Kathleen Krebs, Allegheny County Clean Air Now
Tari Pantaleo, President, Kingston Greenways Association
Chad Oba, President, Friends of Buckingham
Charles M. Brice, President, Darkstar Consulting, Inc.
Liz Robinson, Member, Eco Justice Collaborative
Robert Kelly, President, GoodLife Homes
Mary Gutierrez, Executive Director, Earth Action, Inc.
Genie Ravital, LCSW, Mt. Airy Psychotherapy & Wellness
Peter Riggs, Director, Pivot Point
Betsy Teutsch, Member, NW Philly Climate Action
Flora Cardoni, Climate Defender Campaign Director, PennEnvironment
Genevieve Butler, Mount Triumph Baptist Church
David Coooper, Treasurer, Reclaim Augusta
Maury Johnson, Board of Director, Member, Preserve Monroe
Jane Winn, Executive Director, Berkshire Environmental Action Team
Rebecca Britton, Founder, Uwchlan Safety Coalition
Virginia Palacios, Climate and Clean Air Program Consultant, Green Latinos
Melinda Wanless, President/CEO, Yellow Horse Farms
Ellen Gerhart, Administrator, Camp White Pine
Osprey Orielle Lake, Executive Director, Women’s Earth and Climate Action Network
Gillian Graber, Executive Director, Protect PT (Penn-Trafford)
Tom FitzGerald, Director, Kentucky Resources Council, Inc.
Dr. Jean Christensen, , Citizens’ Climate Lobby Louisville Chapter
Dena Eakles, President, Echo Valley Hope
Liz Feighner, Steering Committee, Howard County (HoCo) Climate Action, Maryland
Carroll Muffett, President & CEO, Center for International Environmental Law
Maurice Sampson, Director, Eastern PA, Clean Water Action
Kate Sherman, License Professional Counseling, Cloud Gate PGH
Claire Miller, Climate Justice Director, Toxics Action Center
Elaine Tanner, Program Director, Friends For Environmental Justice
RL Miller, President, Climate Hawks Vote
Harriet Festing, Executive Director, Anthropocene Alliance
Cindy Westerman, Member, Vestal Residents for Safe Energy
Stacy Lovelace, Co-Founder, Virginia Pipeline Resisters
Renate Heurich, Board Vice President, 350 New Orleans
Mirra Shapiro, Founding Member, R.O.U.T.E.
Lora Snyder, Edgmont Community Safety Coalition
Tracy Cannon, Chair, Eastern Panhandle Protectors
Peter Hudiburg, Founder, Plymouth Friends for Clean Water
Lindsay Lake, Co-Director, 350 Wilmington
Chris Schimmoeller, Volunteer, Kentucky Beyond Fossil Fuels
Amy Rosmarin, Executive Director, Earthkeeper Health Resources
Susan Lees, Coordinator, Pipeline Working Group, MA Mothers Out Front
Mary Finneran, Co-Founder, FrackBustersNY
Doug O’Malley, Director, Environment New Jersey
Andrew Hudson, Founder, 198 methods
Laura Wagner, Executive Director, Unitarian Universalist Mass Action
Barbara Jarmoska, President, Project CoffeeHouse
Robert Cross, President, Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA)
Sister Rose Marie Tresp, Director of Justice, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Patty Cronheim, President, Hopewell Township Citizens Against the PennEast Pipeline
Jim Scheff, Director, Kentucky Heartwood
Carrie Hahn, Organizer, Citizen’s Alliance Upholding a Safe Environment
Jill McManus, Event Producer, NYC-Grassroots Alliance
Jeff Tittel, Director, NJ Sierra Club
Heather Cantino, Steering Committee chair, Athens County’s Future Action Network, acfan.org
Kathy Farrell, Energy Committee Chairperson, Sustainable Sharon Coalition
Ron Keeney, Owner, RK Photography
Ronald Gulla, DAMASCUS Citizens for Sustainability
Mary Miller, Kentucky Conservation Committee
Karen Martin, Chair, North Parish of North Andover Climate Justice Task Force
Cathy Lodge, Co-Founder, Residents Against the Power Plant
Robert Monk, Owner/Electrician, Robert Monk Electric
Nancy LaPlaca, Principal, LaPlaca and Associates LLC
Collin Rees, Senior Campaigner, Oil Change International
Adele Franks, Steering Committee, Climate Action Now, Western Mass
Mary Jenne, Steering Committee Member, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Triangle Chapter (WILPF)
Sandra Engle, Preserve Rural Randolph
Lynn Robinson, Director, Neighbors Against the Gas Plants
Gina Scott, Vice President of Board, Millville Community Market
Ashley Funk, Deputy Director, Mountain Watershed Association
Jennifer Scarlott, Coordinator, Bronx Climate Justice North
George Matthis, President, River Guardian Foundation
Sam Avery, Coordinator, Renewable Energy Alliance of Louisville
Barbara Laxon, Green Party of PA
Bonnie Monteleone, Executive Director, Plastic Ocean Project Inc.
Whitney Wurzel, Executive Director, New Pioneers for a Sustainable Future
Greg Pace, Organizer, Guernsey County Citizens Support on Drilling Issues
Leatra Harper, Managing Director, FreshWater Accountability Project
Yvonne Perret, Executive Director, Advocacy and Training Center
Oliver J. and Lois U. Drumheller, Respiratory Therapist and Founding Members, Sustainable Monroeville
Suzannah Glidden, Co-Founder, Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)
Mark Hefflinger, Communications Director, Bold Alliance
Nancy Vann, President, Safe Energy Rights Group (SEnRG)
Bev Reed, Organizer/Liaison, Concerned Ohio River Residents
Martha Girolami, Member, Chatham Research Group
Sandra Kissam, Chair, Orange Residents Against Pilgrim Pipelines (Orange RAPP)
Abigail M. Jones, Senior Attorney, Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future (PennFuture)
Peter Cipparone, Head of School, The Croft School
Gemma Rosato, Co-Founder/Organizer, Scranton Climate Strike
Wes Ernsberger, Chair, Green Sanctuary Committee, UU Congregation of Binghamton, Green Sanctuary
Sarah Parsons, Chairperson, Allegany County Women's Action Coalition
Jeff Smith, Secretary, Citizens for a Healthy Jessup
Eben Bein, New England Field Coordinator, Our Climate
John Elder, Vice President/Treasurer, Communities for Safe and Sustainable Energy
John Elder, Secretary, Green Team First Church in Oberlin UCC
Chris Schimmoeller, President, Envision Franklin County
Sharon Osika-Michales, Core Member, ShaleshockCNY
Wes Gillingham, Associate Director, Catskill Mountainkeeper
Ann Maynard, Director, Sister District of WNY
Georgina Shanley, Co-Founder, Citizens United for Renewable Energy (CURE)
Theresa Church, Campaigner, Global Justice Ecology Project
John Weisheit, Conservation Director, Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper
Linda Reik, Member, Board of Directors, Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development
Sara Gronim, Co-Leader, 350Brooklyn
Dr. Bob Allen, Co-Chair, Don’t Gas the Pinelands
Lenore Yarger, Co-Founder, Silk Hope Catholic Worker
W. Marvin Winstead, Jr., President, Nash Stop the Pipeline (Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League)
Michael Heyd, Steering Committee Member, Lycoming County Progressives
Bonnie Law, Authorized Representative, Preserve Franklin
Lore Rosenthal, Program Coordinator, Greenbelt Climate Action Network
Barbara Scott, Coordinator, independent Democratic Women Of Susquehanna County
Kelly Germann, Resource Protection Manager, Tinicum Conservancy
David Mucklow, Legal Director, Coalition to Reroute Nexus
Gloria Gilman, Chair, Philly Neighborhood Networks
Donna Chavis, Senior Fossil Fuels Campaigner, Friends of the Earth
Catherine Jozwik, Co-President, Eastern Panhandle Green Coalition
Terry Sloan, Director, Southwest Native Cultures
Maiyim Baron, Leadership Team, Elders Climate Action - Massachusetts Chapter
Nancy Tate, Coordinator, LEPOCO Peace Center (Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern)
OLinda Watkins, President, Moore County NAACP
Patti Wood, Executive Director, Grassroots Environmental Education
Todd Larsen, Executive Co-Director, Green America

#StopPipelinesDuringCOVID19
#NoPipelineApprovalDuringCOVID19
#NoPipelineConstructionDuringCOVID19

Cc: Members of the U.S. Press