



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

June 18th, 2019

We, members of the Maryland General Assembly, are outraged by the Columbia Gas lawsuit attempting to seize Maryland land to construct a fracked gas pipeline. This litigation is an affront to the democratic processes that have denied them access to this land and burdens Maryland residents with numerous public health risks, without any discernible benefit. We will work with the Attorney General, Department of Natural Resources and other stakeholders to defend against this lawsuit.

Last January the Board of Public Works unanimously rejected an easement for a right of way of the historic Maryland Rail Trail for the Potomac Pipeline. This decision came after two years of staunch opposition from local municipalities, residents, activists, and members of the General Assembly who had grave concerns about the risks associated with the construction and operation of the Potomac Pipeline. On May 16th, 2019 Columbia Gas, a subsidiary of TransCanada, filed a complaint in condemnation against Maryland for the right of way to build the Potomac Pipeline. Essentially, Columbia Gas, in disregard for the State's right to protect its residents, water supply, and natural resources, is suing to move ahead with its plans to place a dangerous fracked-gas pipeline under the Potomac River.

As legislators, we believe the construction of this pipeline is counter to the vision we have for Maryland's environmental and energy future. In 2017 legislators worked together to become the first state with gas reserves to legislatively ban fracking. We also have worked to increase our use of renewable energy by passing the Clean Energy Jobs Act and transitioning away from dirty fossil fuels.

We stand with the Department of Natural Resources and support a vigorous defense against this appalling lawsuit.

Sincerely,

Senator Jill P. Carter
Senator Ben Kramer
Senator Clarence Lam
Senator Susan C. Lee
Senator Paul G. Pinsky Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Senator Jim Rosapepe
Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Vice Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher
Senator Mary Washington

Senator Bobby Zirkin, Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
Delegate Heather Bagnall
Delegate Ben Barnes
Delegate Kumar Barve, Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Delegate Regina T. Boyce
Delegate Benjamin Brooks
Delegate Alice Cain
Delegate Jon S. Cardin
Delegate Al Carr
Delegate Lorig Charkoudian
Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield
Delegate Bonnie Cullison
Delegate Kathleen Dumais
Delegate Eric Ebersole
Delegate Jessica Feldmark
Delegate Diana Fennell
Delegate Wanika Fisher
Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo
Delegate Tawanna Gaines, Vice Chair, Appropriations Committee
Delegate Cheryl D. Glenn, Vice Chair, Rules and Executive Nominations Committee
Delegate Michele Guyton
Delegate Shelly Hettleman
Delegate Terri L. Hill
Delegate Steve Johnson
Delegate Ken Kerr
Delegate Marc Korman
Delegate Carol Krimm
Delegate Steve Lafferty
Delegate Mary Lehman
Delegate Robbyn Lewis
Delegate Lesley Lopez
Delegate Sara Love
Delegate David Moon
Delegate Nick J. Mosby
Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr
Delegate Edith J. Patterson
Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Delegate Shane Pendergrass, Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Delegate Lily Qi
Delegate Kirill Reznik
Delegate Mike Rogers
Delegate Samuel I. "Sandy" Rosenberg
Delegate Emily Shetty
Delegate Stephanie Smith
Delegate Jared Solomon
Delegate Dana Stein, Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

Delegate Vaughn Stewart
Delegate Charles E. Sydnor III
Delegate Jen Terrasa
Delegate Kriselda Valderrama
Delegate Courtney Watson
Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins
Delegate Karen Lewis Young