

Governor O'Malley: Publicly Oppose Natural Gas Exports from Maryland's Cove Point Facility

September 17, 2013

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Office of the Governor
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Dear Governor O'Malley,

We, the undersigned businesses and local, state and national organizations urge you to declare your public opposition to the proposed construction of a dangerous, polluting and potentially climate-devastating facility: the Cove Point liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminal in Calvert County, Maryland. This facility, proposed by Virginia-based Dominion Resources, Inc., would greatly harm the Chesapeake Bay, raise energy prices for vulnerable and low-income consumers, set back the state's own greenhouse gas goals, and tear neighborhoods, farms, and state natural resources apart with new and unwanted pipelines. **In short: this massive Cove Point natural gas export facility is not in the best interests of Maryland residents or the American public as a whole.**

So we write you today as part of a new and broad coalition of concerned citizens:

- We are Calvert County residents concerned that the Dominion export facility will threaten our way of life.
- We are watermen and recreational boaters concerned about increasing ship traffic in the Chesapeake from this project.
- We are advocates for low-income Americans concerned about the impact fuel exports will have on energy bills.
- We are concerned health professionals and health advocates, who seek clean energy in order to promote the health of our families, constituents, clients and patients, and who recognize that climate change represents a great threat to human health.
- We are Maryland residents who want to maintain our state's leadership on curbing climate change and keep our state safe from the fracking-enabled gas drilling rush.
- We are residents of fracking-impacted communities in Marcellus and Utica Shale states concerned that the Dominion export facility will hasten the pace of destructive fracking and drilling in our communities.
- We are residents of New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. concerned about safety threats posed by this project's potential strain on existing gas transport infrastructure in our region as well as the destructive and polluting infrastructure development that may be required to accommodate this project.
- We are national environmental groups working to speed our transition to a clean energy economy.
- We are Americans who fear that this project will weaken our country's energy independence.

This terminal is located right on the Chesapeake Bay. If approved, it would be the first liquefied natural gas export facility on the U.S. East Coast. The project would cost upwards of \$3.8 billion

dollars and require the construction of a new, energy-intensive power plant on site to provide power to cool and liquefy the gas. This massive facility also would draw a surge of tanker traffic into the Bay and enable the export of nearly one billion cubic feet of carbon-emitting, fracked natural gas per day.

Building this massive facility would lead to an unacceptable increase in:

1. Climate Pollution: Exporting domestic natural gas requires a number of energy-intensive steps. First, the natural gas must be piped to a liquefaction facility where it will be super-cooled to 270 degrees below zero and converted to a liquid form. The LNG is then piped to tankers waiting to transport the gas to overseas receiving terminals thousands of miles away in India, Japan and elsewhere. Those overseas terminals then regasify the LNG and pipe it to the ultimate end-users. At each of these steps, methane gas can be leaked directly to the atmosphere. Given the energy needed to pipe, liquefy, transport, and regasify the LNG, and the potential leakage along the way, Dominion's Cove Point export facility, if built, would trigger a new wave of greenhouse gas emissions greater than any other single source of climate pollution in the state. Astonishingly, its life-cycle greenhouse gas pollution would be equal to or greater than all of Maryland's seven coal-fired power plants combined.

This would undermine the state's own historic climate action plan and your administration's work to lead the country on climate solutions. Your Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan paves the way for rapid energy-sector reductions. Please continue to show your commitment to reducing climate change and oppose Cove Point's request to turn itself into a major greenhouse gas emitter. Save Maryland from becoming a carbon dumping ground, while padding Dominion's pockets all in the name of exporting a dirty fossil fuel to countries thousands of miles away.

2. The Demand for Fracking: If the Cove Point export facility is approved, it will provide a strong economic incentive for companies to expand fracking across our region, including in Maryland, where drilling has yet to occur. In neighboring states like Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio, the expansion of fracking has led to drinking water contamination, air pollution, health impacts, and the destruction of natural resources.

3. Disruptive Infrastructure: In order to export gas to the world, Cove Point would require support from a massive infrastructure system of compressor stations and hundreds, if not thousands, of miles of intrusive pipelines spread all across Maryland and the surrounding region. Already, residents of the small, rural town of Myersville, Maryland are fighting a 16,000-horsepower compressor station just a mile away from the town's elementary school. In Baltimore and Harford County, residents are struggling to stop a pipeline project that would impact 70 waterways and 2 watersheds in just 21 miles. Building Cove Point would forever alter Maryland's and the region's natural heritage and landscape.

4. Pollution in the Chesapeake Bay: Operating an export facility would lead to a large increase in the traffic of massive, 1,000-foot-long tankers carrying volatile, potentially explosive liquid fuel. The facility would also dump billions of gallons of dirty ballast water into the Bay, threatening marine life. To construct the liquefaction facility, Dominion proposes to barge in heavy construction materials on the Patuxent River and clear well over a hundred acres of forest. This would threaten the network of rivers, wetlands and forests that attract tourists, support our state's water enthusiasts and fishing industries, and provide habitat to rare species of plants, animals and migratory birds.

5. **Energy costs for low-income Americans:** According to the U.S. Department of Energy, exporting U.S. natural gas will increase natural gas prices for all Americans, including vulnerable, low-income consumers.

Given the negative and far-reaching impacts of moving forward with the Cove Point LNG export terminal project, we urge you to declare your public opposition to the project and do everything in your power as Governor to stop it. The project simply is not in the best interest of Maryland and the nation. By joining our coalition's efforts to stop movement on this project, you will preserve your legacy as a leader in confronting climate change and transitioning to clean energy. Please protect Marylanders and other vulnerable east coast communities from the threat of Cove Point's natural gas exports. We are counting on you to prevent great harm to Maryland communities, the climate, and our national treasure – the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,

Calvert County

Blue Herron Inn
Amanda Comer

Captain Pete's Fishing Charters
Captain Pete Ide

Harbor Island Marina, Inc.
Leonard J Shultz

Sierra Club, Southern MD Group
(Calvert, St. Mary's and Charles)
Meredith Sweet

SKD Studios
Anissa Swanzy

Solomons Massage
Julienne Taylor

Maryland

Anacostia Riverkeeper
Mike Bolinder

Assateague Coastal Trust
Kathy Phillips, Executive Director

Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Mike Tidwell, Executive Director

Choptank Riverkeeper
Drew Koslow

Citizen Shale
Eric Robison, President

Clean Water Action
Andy Galli, MD Program Coordinator

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
B. Arrindell, Director

Environment Maryland
Joanna Diamond, Director

Greenbelt Climate Action Network
Lore Rosenthal

Gunpowder Riverkeeper
Theaux M. Le Gardeur, Executive Director

HoCo Climate Change
Elizabeth Singer, Co-founder

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
Jodi Rose, Interim Director

Interfaith Power & Light (MD.DC.NoVA)
Joelle Novey, Director

Patuxent Riverkeeper
Fred Tutman

League of Women Voters of Maryland
Susan W. Cochran, President

Potomac Riverkeeper
Robin Broder, Vice President

Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper
Michael Helfrich

Sassafras Riverkeeper
Emmett Duke

Maryland Environmental Health Network
Rebecca Ruggles, Director

Savage River Watershed Association
John Fritts

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Geoffrey Kidd

Severn Riverkeeper Program
Fred Kelly

Maryland PIRG
Emily Scarr, Advocate

Sierra Club, Maryland Chapter
Josh Tulkin, Maryland Director

Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy
Tim Junkin, Executive Director

Raritan Riverkeeper
Bill Schultz, Riverkeeper

Miles-Wye Riverkeeper
Tom Leigh, Miles-Wye Riverkeeper

The Hatcher Group
Ed Hatcher, President

MSU-SCHP PUBH 623.185 Class
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Staff Registered Nurse

Waterkeepers Chesapeake
Betsy Nicholas

Myersville Citizens for a Rural Community
Franz M. Gerner, Ph.D., President

Watershed Stewards Academy
Carolyn Ricketts, MWS

Physicians for Social Responsibility
Tim Whitehouse, Director,
Chesapeake Chapter

West/Rhode Riverkeeper
Chris Trumbauer

Wicomico Environmental Trust
Karen Lukacs

State-based

Athens County Fracking Action Network
Heather Cantino,
steering committee member

Cahaba Riverkeeper
Myra Crawford PhD, MPH Executive
Director & Riverkeeper

Allegheny Defense Project
Ryan Talbott, Executive Director

Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy
Bruce Ferguson

Berks Gas Truth
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SUNY Cortland
Sheila Cohen, Chair

Buckeye Forest Council
Nathan Johnson, Staff Attorney

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Allen Johnson, Coordinator
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Citizens for Sanity.Com, Inc
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Citizens for Water Foundation
Joseph Levine, Director

Civil Society Institute
Pam Solo

Clean Air Council
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Clean Water Action- Pennsylvania
Myron Arnowitt, State Director

ClimateMama
Harriet Shugarman, Executive Director

Coalition Against the Rockaway Pipeline
(CARP)
Edie Kantrowitz, Co-Coordinator

Coalition for a Frack-Free Tennessee
Eric Lewis, Administrator

Concerned Citizens Ohio
Lori Babbey, Member

Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition
Fay Muir, President

Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Maya K. van Rossum,
the Delaware Riverkeeper

DC Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation
Michael Caruso, Chapter Executive
Committee Member

Dogwood Alliance
Danna Smith, Executive Director

DRAC-Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition
Judith Pierpont

Environment Virginia
Sarah Bucci, Campaign Director

Gas Drilling Awareness for Cortland County
GDACC
Sheila Cohen

Grand Riverkeeper, Oklahoma
Earl Hatley

Grassroots Environmental Education
Patti Wood, Executive Director

Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
Fred Akers, Administrator

Jamaica bay Ecowatchers
Daniel T Mundy

Lehigh Valley Gas Truth
Julie Ann Edgar, Organizer

Lehigh Valley Group, Pennsylvania
Sierra Club
Donald Miles, Chair

Louisiana Bayoukeeper
Tracy Kuhns

Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper
Paul Orr, Riverkeeper

Nature Abounds
Melinda Hughes-Wert, President

NEOGAP (Network for Oil and
Gas Accountability and Protection)
Vanessa Pesec, President

NYH2O
Buck Moorhead, Director

NY/NJ Baykeeper
Debbie Mans, Executive Director

Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
Vivian Stockman, Project Coordinator

Operation SPLASH
Rob Weltner, President

Otsego 2000
Ellen Pope, Executive Director

PeaceRoots Alliance
Elizabeth Barger

Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens Group
Maria Payan, Executive Director

PennEnvironment
David Masur, Director

Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Sandra L. Strauss

Protecting Our Waters
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Radical Joy for Hard Times
Trebbe Johnson, Executive Director

Responsible Drilling Alliance
Robert Cross, President

Riverkeeper, Inc.
Kate Hudson, Watershed Program Director

Rivers Unlimited
Michael C Miller, Vice President

Rivertown Coalition for Clean Air and
Clean Water
Carol Parowski, President

San Diego Coastkeeper
Jill Witkowski, Waterkeeper

San Juan Citizens Alliance
Dan Randolph, Executive Director

Shale Justice
Wendy Lynne Lee

Shenandoah Riverkeeper
Jeff Kelble

Shenandoah Valley Network
Kate G. Wofford, Director

Sierra Club Tennessee Chapter
Scott Banbury, Conservation Chair

Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter
Glen Besa, Virginia Director

South River Federation
Capt. Diana Muller, South Riverkeeper

Sullivan Area Citizens for Responsible
Energy Development
Larysa Dyrzka, MD, co-founder

Stop The Minisink Compressor Station
Asha Canalos, Co-Director

TerraScapes Environmental
Terra Pascaros, Director

Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Inc.
Bert Darrow, President

United for Action
Edie Kantrowitz, Board Member

Virgil Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition
Bob Applegate

We The People Matter
Asha Canalos, Co-Founder & Co-Director

Yadkin Riverkeeper
Dean Naujoks, Executive Director

National

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Katie Huffling, Director of Programs

Center for Health, Environment & Justice
Lois Marie Gibbs, Executive Director

Center for Biological Diversity
Bill Snape, Senior Counsel

Center for Media and Democracy
Lisa Graves, Executive Director

Earthjustice
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Gas Drilling Practice Group

Energy Justice Network
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Environment America
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Food and Water Watch
Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director

Friends of the Earth
Erich Pica, President

Green America
Fran Teplitz

Greenpeace USA
Kyle Ash, Senior Legislative Representative

Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Michael Mariotte, Executive Director

Public Citizen
Allison Fisher, Outreach Director of
Energy Program

The Sierra Club Beyond Natural
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Deborah J. Nardone, Director

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