

A letter from national environmental and justice leaders

Governor Larry Hogan of Maryland: Please Honor Your Paris Commitment

**It's Time to Reject TransCanada's Fracked-gas Pipeline Across Maryland
and to Stop Supporting a \$100 Million Plan to Expand Fracked-gas Use
Across the State**

March 14th, 2018

Dear Governor Hogan,

We are writing you as concerned environmental and justice leaders from across the United States. In January, we were glad to see you [join fifteen](#) other U.S. governors in embracing the Paris Climate Accord as part of the [US Climate Alliance](#). However, Governors must do more than verbally embrace the Paris greenhouse gas reductions as a public relations matter. They must achieve actual reductions on the ground.

Which is why we are extremely concerned about your support of TransCanada's proposed fracked-gas pipeline across Maryland, the so-called "Potomac Pipeline." And we are equally concerned about your Administration's plans to spend [\\$100 million](#) -- most of it ratepayer money -- to expand fracked-gas consumption in your state with the help of another Canadian gas company, AltaGas. These decisions are completely at odds with the spirit and letter of the Paris Climate Accord.

Last spring, Governor, you inspired the world with your [embrace](#) of a ban on gas drilling in Maryland using hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. At the time, you said such drilling was a threat to Maryland's drinking water and to the overall health of people and the environment. And you seemed to understand what scientists continue to tell us: To stabilize the global climate, [80% of](#) all known reserves of fossil fuels worldwide must stay in the ground.

But now, Governor, you appear to be moving in the opposite direction. If fracking is bad for Maryland, why is it okay to allow TransCanada to pipe the gas through your state from harmed communities in Pennsylvania? And if the Paris Climate Accord is really important to you, why incentivize the combustion of fracked gas when life-cycle methane leakage creates an impact on the atmosphere at least as bad as coal -- if not

worse? Just this month, [a new study](#) showed that methane leaks from fracking operations in Pennsylvania are five times worse than previously believed.

Given these realities, why do you propose giving Calgary-based AltaGas and other companies a \$100 million subsidy to [“kick-start natural gas expansion...throughout Maryland.”](#) Absurdly, this fund -- as part of your plan to let AltaGas buy a Maryland-based gas company -- could give AltaGas the legal grounds to sue Maryland under NAFTA rules to [PREVENT](#) implementation of the Paris Accords in your state.

Governor, instead of promoting fracked-gas combustion, we are asking you to do the following:

1. Reject the TransCanada Pipeline by using your authority under the Clean Water Act;
2. Invest the \$100 million from the AltaGas settlement towards repairing existing methane leaks in gas pipelines in Maryland, or for gas efficiency improvements for ratepayers; and
3. Support efforts to expand wind and solar energy as proposed under the Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act, currently before the Maryland General Assembly. You actually vetoed a similar bill two years ago.

By rejecting dangerous fracked-gas pipelines and embracing wind and solar you can in fact uphold your commitment to the Paris Climate Accord and help preserve the health of your state, our states, and the global climate.

Sincerely,

Bill McKibben, author and founder, 350.org

Josh Fox, filmmaker and activist

Sandra Steingraber, PhD, biologist, author

Stephen Kretzmann, Founder & Executive Director, Oil Change International

Erich Pica, President, Friends of the Earth

RL Miller, Climate Hawks Vote

Nicole Kemeny, 350 Silicon Valley

Donald Goldberg, Executive Director, Climate Law & Policy Project

Rev. Lennox Yearwood, President, Hip Hop Caucus

Bill Snape, Senior Counsel, Center for Biological Diversity

Bob Musil, President, Rachel Carson Council

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