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I have dealt with FERC for nearly 30 years as a consumer advocate working on consumer pocketbook issues. The consumer community has sought a consumer focused FERC office to balance public and energy industry influence. We have become increasingly frustrated with FERC's structure and procedures and the revolving door between it and the industry.

Currently, I am in the fight of my life to protect our heritage in the form of the farm we have operated for over 100 years. My husband and I seek to pass this historical business to the next generation and have planned to retire there. However, a 42 inch high pressure pipeline is proposed to bisect our business for over a mile. Almost all of our farm buildings and 1804 farm house with historic outbuildings will be in the Blast or "high consequence" Zone, just three miles after one of the largest Compressor Stations built. That station will change the historic Virginia free slave community to an industrial center, ignoring requests to protect history. Likewise, attempts to move the line to our property edge have been ignored due to our unwillingness to sign an easement prior to FERC's certificate approval.

It will not be safe to live the rest of my life within the Blast Zone of infrastructure that is primarily governed by corporate profit incentives. The history our property represents is at risk of total loss. There are lower government and company investments in rural safety and higher rates of explosion in rural areas. Gas will be under highest pressure through the middle of our historic business. An accidental explosion would completely erase almost all our structures and lives of people and animals.

The surveys of historic and cultural attachments FERC accepts are extremely superficial and allow destruction of history. Staff doing archeological studies have been fired for looking too closely for historical significance.

People facing taking of or impact on historic property feel totally unheard by FERC. Public meetings are planned with corporate, but not citizen, involvement. The only public meeting held in Buckingham County for the Compressor Station 3-4 miles from our property was held the night after a large snowstorm. We repeatedly asked for rescheduling but the company refused and was thrilled that only 30 people attended. FERC cannot learn about citizen concerns about historic properties when citizens cannot safely attend meetings.

I am also fighting the MVP proposed near the 1797 house built as a stagecoach wayside in southwest Virginia where we have lived for over 30 years. The unannounced but planned (a landowner has been approached and tap planned) compressor station will be within about five miles. Its pollution and explosion risk will affect us. FERC's recent DEIS public hearing used an extremely slow, private, individual process for testimony that prevented citizens and the media from hearing and many, including me, gave up testifying after three hours.

In short, FERC is designed to approve industry requests and inherently almost completely ignores consumers/ landowners. Pending law would further streamline this. FERC forces us to pass on historic property with liability and risks that threaten heritage, earning potential, and asset value. FERC is broken for all but the industry.