

Hello. I'm Kathy Harget representing Green America, a national non-profit organization working to build a thriving green economy that works for all people and our planet.

On behalf of our 250,000 individual and 3,000 business members, we have engaged with FERC to encourage the agency to end its practices of rubber stamping pipelines and liquefied natural gas terminals that endanger the welfare of local communities and contribute to climate change. Like our allies, our experience in working with FERC has been deeply disturbing, and makes clear that FERC rarely rejects pipelines and other infrastructure projects, and disregards the concerns of local communities who are at risk.

Our initial involvement was over Dominion's Cove Point LNG export terminal in Maryland, which will export natural gas from the US overseas. Green America staff and members took part in numerous demonstrations against Cove Point. It has been heartbreaking to hear from local residents, who have purchased their homes and are raising their children in what they thought was a safe place, and who now realize that all of this is at risk. 2,000 people live in a "blast/fire -kill zone" identified by MD Department of Natural Resources, and 265 homes are in the "no escape zone."

Additionally, export terminals like Cove Point would trigger a wave of destructive new fossil-fuel infrastructure, from a web of pipelines to carry the toxic, flammable fuel across communities, to an exponential increase in tanker traffic along environmentally sensitive waterways like Maryland's Chesapeake Bay.

Green America's individual and business members joined the chorus of groups urging FERC to conduct a more rigorous Environmental Impact Study on the proposed export plant. We delivered 7,500 petition signatures from our members urging FERC to fully evaluate the environmental consequences and community impacts of the proposed project. But FERC approved Cove Point despite all of the massive downsides.

In our dealings with FERC, it was evident that there was little interest in community input, and no concern at all for the climate implications of Dominion's Cove Point facility. We believe this is the result of:

- FERC's bias in support of the industry it is supposed to regulate. Since FERC is 100% funded by the industries it regulates it has no incentive to deny any project that comes before it. **FERC has denied only 1 natural gas pipeline project in the 30 years since it has been funded this way.**
- The revolving door between FERC and the industry it regulates.
- FERC's very difficult process for the public to file comment, and FERC not allowing people to speak at all at their public hearings.
- FERC's use of consultants who work for the pipeline industry and clearly have a conflict of interests.

It is time for Congress to 1) hold FERC accountable for actually assessing the full risks of the projects it currently rubber stamps, 2) create a structure that is independent of the industry it regulates, and 3) take into account the voices of impacted communities across the nation.

Thank you.