

Letters to the Editor Toolkit:

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD AND MAKE YOUR OPINIONS KNOWN about the EQT/Next Era Pipeline Proposal

If you want to share your opinions concerning the proposed pipeline in the form of a letter to the editor, the following information might be helpful.

How do I deliver my letter?

The Floyd Press:

1. Mail your letter to: Letters to the Editor: 710 East Main Street, Floyd, VA, 24091
2. Take your letter to their office on 710 East Main Street, Floyd, VA
3. Go to https://swvatoday-dot-com.bloxcms-ny1.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/ and follow their instructions.
4. Email General Manager/Editor Wanda Combs: news@floydpress.com . Call 540.745.2127 with any questions.

Remember to include your name, address, and phone number.

The Roanoke Times

Their public statement: “We welcome letters on public issues. You must include your name, address and, for verification only, a phone number where you can be reached during the day. Your letter should be 200 words or fewer. When citing an article in The Roanoke Times, please give its headline and date. If accepted for publication, it will be printed in the printed Roanoke Times, if space is available. All letters are edited. Because of the volume we receive, we regret we can publish only a portion of them, and cannot always acknowledge receipt. Call 540-981-3257 for more information.”

1. Mail your letter to: Letters to the Editor: 201 W. Campbell Ave, P.O. Box 2491, Roanoke, VA 24010-2491
2. *READER COMMENT LINE: 540-981-3173*
3. Take your letter to their office on 201 W. Campbell Ave. Roanoke
4. Go to https://roanoke-dot-com.bloxcms-ny1.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/ and follow their instructions.
5. Email Dwayne Yancey at: dwayne.yancey@roanoke.com

The Washington Post

Their public statement: "We accept letters by e-mail and surface mail, however, because timeliness is a critical factor in the selection of letters we publish, we strongly encourage submissions by e-mail. We prefer letters that are fewer than 200 words and take as their starting point an article or other item appearing in The Post. They may not have been submitted to, posted to or published by any other media. They must include the writer's full name -- anonymous letters and letters written under pseudonyms will not be considered. For verification purposes, they must also include the writer's home address, e-mail address and telephone numbers. Writers should disclose any personal or financial interest in the subject matter of their letters. If sending e-mail, please put the text of the letter in the body and do not send attachments -- they will not be read. The Post receives more than a thousand letters each week. Letters editor Mike Larabee looks for concise letters that offer a new perspective or add depth to the discussion of an issue. Letters are edited for clarity, fact checked and sometimes trimmed to fit the space available in the newspaper. The opinions expressed are always the writer's own. We confer with letter writers about editing to the extent that deadlines allow."

Write to letters@washpost.com or to: Letters to the Editor, The Washington Post, 1150 15th Street NW, Washington DC 20071.

washingtonpost.com/letterstotheeditor

General tips:

- Write complete sentences and use spell check.
- Narrow your comments to only one or two points. Your letter doesn't need to be lengthy to be important and effective. Make it personal where you can.
- Thank the Floyd County Board of Supervisors (and other local officials) for looking out for the people of Floyd County on this issue.

Some points to consider if the pipeline might potentially cross your property:

- The pipeline easements will severely limit the future use of my land. I am concerned that I won't be able to till or plant on the easement. I am also concerned that I cannot build or even plant trees on the easement.
- I am concerned that the pipeline will decrease my property value. It could affect my mortgage and my ability to borrow. It could also complicate my property insurance.
- I am concerned that the pipeline could pollute the water that I use for my home or my farm. The groundwater stored in Floyd County's fractured rock is susceptible to risk to both quantity and quality; we do not know the impact. 95% of Floyd County residents get their water from a well or a spring and not from public facilities.
- I am frustrated that pipeline employees could be entering my property for decades to come.

- I am a farmer and I am concerned that no heavy equipment can cross the easements without a special crossing being built. I am not even sure how to negotiate for such a crossing or what it would entail. I worry that it will affect my livelihood and that if I hire anyone to help me with farm work they might not take proper precautions, putting my property at greater risk for ruptures, leaks—even dangerous explosions.
- I am concerned that EQT/Next Era will put another pipeline in the easement or even expand the easement in the future.
- I am worried that EQT/Next Era will put a compressor station on my land or in my community. Compressor stations involve a huge amount of noise and could run 24 hours a day. I've heard that EQT/Next Era will locate a compressor station every 40-60 miles, so it seems likely that there could be one in Floyd County.

Other points:

- The pipeline would harm our springs, streams and rivers and could pollute our water supplies. The pipeline could cross dozens of waterways in the county, including the headwaters of the Roanoke, Dan and New Rivers. Floyd County's water is primarily groundwater stored in fractured rock and is vulnerable to risk of both quantity and quality. We cannot accurately predict the impact that the construction of a line such as this one would cause, not to mention any leaks or ruptures from a 42 inch transport line. A pipeline this large across the Blue Ridge geology is unprecedented.
- The pipeline will hurt the rural character of Floyd County. The route itself will cause the loss of at least six acres of farmland or forest per mile. The pipeline could also prompt other industrial development which would consume more farmland and forests.
- I am worried about the hazards that the pipeline poses for Floyd County, like explosions from leaks that could cause injuries and loss of life as well as extensive property damage.
- The pipeline will cut across remote portions of our landscape and will also cross the Blue Ridge Parkway. It could require one or more tunnels under the Little River which has been declared a Special Project Area and conservation corridor by the Virginia Outdoors Federation. The Little River and its tributary creeks and streams are worthy of elevated care and are an indication of Floyd's concerns about and commitment to maintain the quality and quantity of our water.
- I am concerned that the pipeline will harm rare habitats and endangered species. Floyd County is home to 46 species which are ranked "Extremely Rare" or "Very Rare," including one listed as "Endangered", two listed as "Threatened" and two which merit "Special Concern."
- The pipeline will degrade our community without providing new jobs or without reducing our power bills. I've heard that EQT/Next Era will bring in their own professionals to build the pipeline, and the gas will be sent to transport stations in North Carolina. I also understand that there will be no additional revenue for the local government.