



## **Statement for People Power Virginia**

As I fight to represent the interests of the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia, immediately reducing our dependence on fracked gas and drilled oil is a top priority of mine. While we transition to a clean energy state, gas and oil companies must be held financially accountable for their roles in environmental destruction with reparations given to exploited communities and to ecology restoration projects. Construction and operation of controversial projects such as natural gas plants must be immediately halted and intersectional analysis must be performed before future clean energy sector infrastructure is developed. Lawmakers and state agencies have failed the people of Virginia for years by standing idly by while projects with doubtful viability destroy our land and risk the health of our families.

In addition to the obvious environmental hazards, equity issues are significant in fossil fuel infrastructure. Compressor stations, power plants and dangerous pipelines constructed in the backyards of often poor and rural Virginians pose health risks and detract from quality of life. The existence of these projects displays our government's negligence toward its people which particularly impacts Indigenous and Black people. Allowing predatory projects like C4GT and Chickahominy to continue is a bold example of putting corporate profit over the needs of the people. If former Dominion CEO Tom Farrell would not have allowed the project in his backyard, or have his property seized through eminent domain, it should not happen to working class Virginians.

We are pleased to see, for now, C4GT has been abandoned, but this is only a step in the process for environmental justice and sustainability. We share solidarity with the causes of our Appalachian constituents who stand against the 300+ mile Mountain Valley Pipeline and Lambert Compressor Station. MVP would violently disrupt the ecology of the Ridge and Valley region of our state, all in the name of fossil fuel profits.

It is time that we look toward the future we wish to leave for our preceding generations. We must divest from fossil fuels and the predatory capitalism that enables pipelines and ecological devastation. We must support the Land Back cause for the Indigenous nations of our Commonwealth, ceding stewardship of the land to native peoples. We must invest in green technology advancement and begin working towards a cleaner and more sustainable way of life. We must invest in our local communities, protect our most at risk of ecological repercussions from climate change, and prepare for the future of the people of our state, a future that does not include the Mountain Valley Pipeline or its ilk.



### **Overall Environmental Policy:**

The future we want for Virginia is not one that invests in fossil fuels and non-renewable energy. Specifically, we would not only work to implement a moratorium for new and/or the expansion of existing fossil fuel/natural gas pipelines, but we would additionally move to propose an amendment to HB 1526, preventing any expansion of said non-renewable energy pipelines.

Our campaign is committed to transitioning to equitable, sustainable clean energy that slows global warming and protects Virginia's future. We will incentivize and subsidize transitions to clean energy and food composting programs. We will mandate indigenous sovereignty and racial impact studies prior to approving major environmental projects. We will introduce legislation to permanently protect forests, waterways, and mountains from industry and private development. We will subsidize and transition to sustainable, renewable energy, ban harmful practices such as fracking statewide, dismantle existing fossil fuel infrastructure such as pipelines, and guarantee the restoration of environmental ecology moving forward. We promise to protect the employment of workers in the fossil fuel industry via just transition to clean energy sectors. We will work to guarantee that Virginia is a 100% clean energy state no later than 2050.

If elected, we will quickly reign in the energy sector and end the implementation and expansion of natural gas and non-renewable energy resources in favor of green energy infrastructure which the VCEA does not do in its current, signed form. We will also move to push for the expansion of charging stations for electric cars, levying a progressive carbon tax to force major business to transition to renewable energy, work with rural farmers to voluntarily migrate economically-troubled livestock and agriculture farms towards solar energy establishments, and work to ensure that "beautification" projects from state budgets serve focused purposes to turn our city infrastructures green and strengthen food sovereignty.