

## **An Open Letter to President Biden and Vice President Harris**

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris,

We, the undersigned, are writing to urge your administration to reconsider the United States Army Corps of Engineers' use of Nationwide Permit 12 (NWP12) to construct large fossil fuel pipelines.

In Memphis, Tennessee, this "fast-tracked" permitting process has given the green light to the Byhalia pipeline, despite the process wholly ignoring significant environmental justice issues and the threat the project potentially poses to a local aquifer which provides drinking water to one million people.

The pipeline route cuts through a resilient, low-wealth Black community, which has already been burdened by seventeen toxic release inventory facilities. The community suffers cancer rates four times higher than the national average. Subjecting this Black community to the possible health effects of more environmental degradation is wrong. Because your administration has prioritized the creation of environmental justice, we knew knowledge of this project would resonate with you.

The pipeline would also cross through a municipal well field that provides the communities drinking water. To add insult to injury, this area poses the highest seismic hazard in the Southeastern United States.

The Corps purports to have satisfied all public participation obligations for use of NWP 12 on the Byhalia pipeline in 2016 – years before the pipeline was proposed. We must provide forums where communities in the path of industrial projects across the country can be heard. Neighborhoods like Boxtown and Westwood in Memphis have a right to participate in the creation of their own destinies and should never be ignored.

We ask you to take immediate action to direct the Army Corps to revoke its Nationwide Permit 12 verification of the Byhalia pipeline project and to reevaluate the propriety of the use of Nationwide Permit 12 for new oil and gas infrastructure across the county.

Nothing should supersede the health and well-being of your constituents.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours,

- . **Mustafa Santiago Ali** (VP of Environmental Justice, Climate and Community Revitalization for the National Wildlife Federation)
- . **Diedrich Bader** (Actor – Napoleon Dynamite, Office Space, Miss Congeniality 2)
- . **Rev. Dr. William Barber II** (President of Repairers of the Breach and Co-Chair of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival)
- . **Richard Bausch** (Award-Winning Novelist, Former Professor at the University of Memphis, and Professor at Chapman University)
- . **Ed Begley Jr** (Actor & Environmental Activist)
- . **Rev Dr Gregory Bentley** (Pastor at Fellowship Presbyterian Church and Chairman of Minority Affairs for the Tuscaloosa County Democratic Party)
- . **Ken Berlin** (President & CEO of the Climate Reality Project)
- . **Megan Boone** (Actor – The Blacklist, Law & Order: LA, Blue Bloods)
- . **Jon Bowermaster** (Oceans Expert, Journalist, Author, Filmmaker, Adventurer and six-time Grantee of the National Geographic Expeditions Council)
- . **Dr Robert D. Bullard** (Co-Chair National Black Environmental Justice Network. Known as the “father of Environmental Justice”, and regarded as the foremost scholar on environmental racism)
- . **Daniel James Brown** (Best-selling author of The Boys in the Boat)
- . **Leon Addison Brown** (Actor – The Knick, Mo’ Better Blues, Lincoln, A Walk Among the Tombstones)
- . **J Smith Cameron** (Actor – Margaret, Man on a Ledge, You Can Count on Me)
- . **Don Cheadle** (Oscar-Nominated Actor – Crash, The Guard, Hotel Rwanda, Iron Man 2 & 3)
- . **Alan Cumming** (Award-Winning Actor – The Anniversary Party, The Good Wife, GoldenEye)
- . **Judith Enck** (Former EPA Regional Administrator, President of Beyond Plastic)
- . **Giancarlo Esposito** (Four-Time Emmy-Nominated Actor – Breaking Bad, The Usual Suspects, Do The Right Thing)
- . **Willa Fitzgerald** (Actor – Little Women, Reacher, Billions)
- . **Grandmother Flordemayo** (Member of the International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers, Founder of The Path)
- . **Catherine Coleman Flowers** (Founder of the Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice, Author, and 2020 MacArthur Fellow)
- . **Jane Fonda** (Actor, Political Activist, Environmentalist and Founder of Firedrill Fridays)
- . **Jerome Foster II** (Co-Editor-In-Chief at The Climate Reporter, Executive Director at One Million of Us)
- . **Peter Gallagher** (Actor – Sex, Lies & Videotape, American Beauty, the OC)
- . **Paul Gallay** (President of Riverkeeper)
- . **Danny Glover** (Actor, Film Director and Activist)
- . **Karenna Gore** (Founder and Director of the Center for Earth Ethics)
- . **Tim Guinee** (Founder of The Climate Actors. Actor – Homeland, The Good Wife, Iron Man)
- . **Chelsea Handler** (Comedian, Actor, Writer, Television Host & Activist)
- . **Evan Handler** (Actor – Ransom, Sex and the City, Californication)
- . **Peter Hedges** (Oscar-Nominated Writer/Director – About A Boy, What’s Eating Gilbert Grape)
- . **Stephen McKinley Henderson** (Tony-nominated Actor. Drama Desk and Obie winner)
- . **Jay Hernandez** (Actor – Magnum P.I., Friday Night Lights, Hostel, Suicide Squad)
- . **Laura Hillenbrand** (Best-selling author of Seabiscuit and Unbroken)
- . **Chelah Horsdal** (Actor The Man in High Castle, Hell on Wheels, You Me Her)
- . **Chase Iron Eyes** (American Indian Activist, Attorney, Politician and member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe)
- . **Kizzy Jones** (Co-Founder Memphis Community Against the Pipeline)
- . **Jeremy Kagan** (Emmy Award-winning Film & Television Director)
- . **Dr Maureen Katz MD** (Commissioner of Dorothy Holmes commission on racial equality for American Psychoanalytic Association, 1000 Grandmothers for Future Generation)

- . **Winona LaDuke** (Economist and Author working on issues of Indigenous Economics, Food and Energy Policy. Executive Director of Honor the Earth)
- . **Melissa Leo** (Academy Award-Wining Actor)
- . **Warren Leight** (Tony & Pulitzer Prize-Winning Playwright – Producer of Law & Order SVU)
- . **Great Grandmother Mary Lyons** (Ojibwe Elder, U.N. Indigenous Observer, Co-Founder of the Grandmothers of the Sacred WE)
- . **James MacDaniel** (Actor – NYPD Blue, Malcolm X, The Natalie Cole Story)
- . **Aaron Mair** (President – Arbor Hill Environmental Justice Corporation, Former Sierra Club President)
- . **Michael E. Mann** (Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science, Penn State University)
- . **Bill McKibben** (Author and Founder of 350.org)
- . **Jen Metzger** (former New York State Senator and Founder of Citizens for Local Power)
- . **Alyssa Milano** (actor – Commando, Charmed, Who’s The Boss )
- . **Colby Minifie** (Actor, The Boys & Fear The Walking Dead)
- . **Anson Mount** (Actor – Star Trek: Strange New Worlds, Hell On Wheels, and Tennessee native)
- . **Sarah Pekkanen** (Best-Selling Novelist of The Wife Between Us, An Anonymous Girl and many more)
- . **Piper Perabo** (Golden Globe-Winning Actor)
- . **Justin J. Pearson** (Co-Founder Memphis Community Against the Pipeline)
- . **Lou Diamond Phillips** (Award-Winning Actor – La Bamba, Stand and Deliver, Courage Under Fire, Young Guns)
- . **Aidan Quinn** (Award-Winning Actor – Practical Magic, Legends of the Fall, The Mission, Benny & Joon)
- . **Phylicia Rashaad** (Emmy Award and NAACP Image Award-winning Actor and Singer)
- . **Linus Roache** (Actor, Law & Order, The Vikings, Homeland)
- . **Kathy Robinson** (Co-Founder Memphis Community Against the Pipeline)
- . **Jay Russell** (Film Director of My Dog Skip and Ladder 49)
- . **Ali Selim** (Award-Winning Film & Television Writer and Director)
- . **Cybill Shepherd** (Memphian and Golden Globe-Winning Actor - Cybill, Moonlighting, Taxi Driver, The Last Picture Show)
- . **Harriet Shugarman** (Activist and Award-Winning Author, How to Talk to Your Kids About Climate Change, Turning Angst into Action)
- . **Rev. Dr. Gregory Simpson** (Pastor of Nauraushaun Presbyterian Church, Dr. of Organic Chemistry and Co-Founder of Learning for Life Solutions)
- . **Randi Mayem Singer** (Producer and writer, best known for writing Mrs. Doubtfire)
- . **Rebecca Skloot** (Best-selling author of The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, former Asst. Professor at the University of Memphis)
- . **Brooke Smith** (Actor – Big Sky, Silence of the Lambs, Bad Company)
- . **Dee Snider** (American Singer-Songwriter and lead singer for Twisted Sister)
- . **Mira Sorvino** (Oscar-Winning Actor – Mighty Aphrodite, Romy and Michele’s High School Reunion)
- . **Alexandria Villasenor** (Youth Climate Activist, Co-Founder of the US Youth Climate Strike)
- . **Rev. Lennox Yearwood** (President of the Hip Hop Caucus)
- . **Danny Zuker** (Five-Time Emmy Award Winning Writer/Producer of Modern Family)