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VIA FEDEX OVERNIGHT DELIVERY and VIA E-MAIL - <u>SupremeCtBriefs@USDOJ.gov</u>

Scott S. Harris, Clerk Supreme Court of the United States 1 First Street, NE Washington, DC 20543

Re

Orus Ashby Berkley, et al. v. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, et al.

No. 18-561

Response in opposition to Respondents' motion for an extension of time and

Petitioners' motion for a stay pending litigation

Dear Mr. Harris:

Petitioners respectfully oppose Respondents' Motion for an Extension of Time and request a Stay Pending Litigation in the event that the Court grants the extension.

Petitioners indicated via email to Respondent Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC ("MVP") on November 20, 2018 (wherein no explanation was offered by MVP for its request for an extension) that because of the particular circumstances of this case, the Petitioners oppose any extension of time absent a stay of construction pending litigation.

As we indicated to MVP, Petitioners have no objection to an extension so long as both Defendants FERC and MVP agree to stay construction while the litigation is pending before this Court. Otherwise, an extension would not only benefit MVP by providing an unfair advantage to allow it to once again advance construction during the extension, but would also unduly prejudice the individual Landowners, on whose land the power of eminent domain is being exercised.

Absent a stay pending litigation, Petitioners object to any such extension. Every day that the construction continues, more of the pipe goes into the ground. Since Petitioners are challenging this as an unconstitutional delegation of eminent domain power, the validity of the entire project is brought into question before this Court.



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Therefore, without an order to stay construction, Petitioner-Landowners object to the extension of time as each day of construction further damages the landowners' private property rights.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

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Guy M. Harbert, III

GMH:jak

cc: Mia Yugo, Esq.

Thomas J. Bondurant, Esq.