



April 11, 2023

Dear Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Commissioners,

As leaders of diverse religious and spiritual communities across Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, we are writing to urge you to **deny the proposed Gas Transmission Northwest (GTN) Xpress fracked gas pipeline capacity expansion** because the risk of harm it poses to our communities is too great. As faith leaders, we teach our children and our communities the importance of caring for one another, of protecting the most vulnerable, and tending to the earth with care. This proposed expansion goes against these values by increasing the risk of harm to our communities and our neighbors.

We have serious concerns about the necessity and morality of this pipeline expansion, especially in a time of increased climate change that is impacting communities in our states and across the world. We must move towards sustainable renewable energy. As faith leaders, we must sound the alarm against this proposal, speaking out faithfully against the GTN Xpress expansion. We call upon you to help protect our communities and our future by denying this proposal.

The GTN Xpress project would push more fracked gas through 60-year-old pipes near and in several populated areas and under numerous rivers and streams. Given the track record of TC Energy's handling of the recent nearly 600,000-gallon Keystone pipeline oil spill in Kansas in December, a pipeline that is only 12 years old, we have widespread concerns regarding TC Energy's ability to reduce the risk along the aging GTN pipeline.

We also cannot morally support a project that would require around 660 new fracked gas wells to be drilled on Indigenous land in northeast British Columbia in order to support the expanded pipeline capacity. Negative environmental and health impacts of living near fracking wells are well documented. As people of faith, we are called to help co-create a healthier and more just future for all, which means ensuring our neighbors across the border in northeast British Columbia are not subjected to the risks of increased fracking.

Additionally, we urge you to especially listen to concerns about inadequate tribal consultation, lack of public need for the pipeline expansion, and the project's direct conflict with tribes' and states' climate goals [raised by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission \(CRITFC\)](#) and their member tribes, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. CRITFC has clearly spoken out against this expansion, and we join in solidarity with them in rejecting the need for energy sources that put our communities in harm's way.

As we move into a season of important sacred holidays for many people of faith, including Lent, Purim, Holi, Ramadan, Passover, and Easter, we ask that you make a decision that cares for our communities, neighbors, and our common home, planet earth. Please deny the GTN Xpress pipeline expansion.

Sincerely,

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Temple Beth Israel, Eugene  
Eugene, OR

**Catherine Ruha**

University Unitarian Church  
Seattle, WA

**Francie Rutherford**

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Seattle, WA

**Sr. Judith Ryan, SNJM**

St. James Catholic Cathedral  
Seattle, WA

**Rev. Michael G. Ryan**

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Seattle, WA

**The Very Rev. Holladay Sanderson**

Retired Episcopal Priest  
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Christ Lutheran Church, Ferndale  
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**Rev. Daniel Schnabel**

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**Larry Schneider**

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Lacey  
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**Judith Schwab**

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**Rev. Jennifer Seaich**

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**Rev. Brenda Sene**

Rupert United Methodist Church  
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**Naghmana Sherazi**

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Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience  
of Eastern WA and North ID  
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**Nancy Shimeall**

Unitarian Universalist  
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**Kasey Shultz**

Columbia City Church of Hope  
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**Rabbi Jacob Siegel**

Dayenu  
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**Kimberly Sims**

Maple Leaf Lutheran Church  
Seattle, WA

**Michael Siptroth**

Jewish  
Belfair, WA

**Eileen Sleva**

Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Beaverton  
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**Marc Smason**

Temple Beth Am  
Seattle, WA

**Kathe Smith**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles  
Sequim, WA

**Rev. Kevin Smith**

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**Maddie Smith**

University Unitarian Church  
Seattle, WA

**Joseph Snyder**

Multnomah Monthly Friends Meeting  
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Valleyford, WA

**Rev. Elizabeth Sollie**

Cascade Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
East Wenatchee, WA

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Eugene Friends Church  
Eugene, OR

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Bellingham, WA

**Hannah Sullivan**

Red Cedar Zen Community  
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**Merrily Sutton**

Central Lutheran Church, Eugene  
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**Janet Swihart**

United Methodist  
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**Rev. Bonnie Tarwater**

Church for Our Common Home  
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**Pat Taylor**

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral  
Seattle, WA

**Ethan Teed**

Stillpoint at Becksde Spirituality Center  
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**Rev. Terry Teigen**

United Churches of Olympia  
Olympia, WA

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**Phyllis Thayer**

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**Ray Thomas**

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