PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. MANUFACTURING NEEDS THE MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA) <u>submitted</u> <u>comments</u> in support of the requested extension of time to complete construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline project.

Paul N. Cicio, President & CEO of IECA stated:

We have manufacturing companies in both West Virginia and Virginia who need this pipeline capacity to invest in the expansion of existing and new facilities that create jobs and economic growth. Manufacturing workers in the U.S. earned \$92,832 on average, including pay and benefits.

Manufacturing equipment is very diverse due to the significant array of consumer and national defense products. For equipment that is designed for use of natural gas, switching to electricity is not an option.

They have invested hundreds of billions of dollars in equipment that can only operate on natural gas. Very few have backup alternatives like coal or fuel oil and those options emit higher levels of GHGs and criteria emissions. Therefore, use of those options is not desirable.

If there is inadequate pipeline capacity and therefore inadequate supply of natural gas, manufacturing facilities may be forced to reduce production or possibly shutdown. Many are worried about getting curtailed this winter.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.1 trillion in annual sales, over 11,700 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.8 million employees worldwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through advocacy and collaboration for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: chemicals, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, building products, automotive, brewing, independent oil refining, and cement.