

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Environmental Groups Seek to Block Gas Pipeline Threatening the Flint, Chattahoochee,
and Private Property All Along its Route**

More than 80% of the Sabal Trail Pipeline Will Affect Environmental Justice Communities

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Atlanta, GA – Today Flint Riverkeeper, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper and the Sierra Club filed a motion for a stay of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) order allowing construction of the Sabal Trail natural gas pipeline to proceed pending a decision on the merits of the case. Petitioners are also seeking expedited review of the case. “Without a stay and expedited consideration of the case, the pipeline will likely be built before the case is fully heard and decided by the court,” said Steve Caley, Legal Director with GreenLaw who is representing all three groups appealing FERC’s decision to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

“This is unacceptable,” said Gloria Gaines incoming member of the Dougherty County, Georgia Board of Commissioners. “The Sabal Trail pipeline poses a direct threat to the clean air and water for communities of color throughout the Southeast, and must be rejected. FERC and our government should be looking to protect our communities, not destroy them with pollution.”

FERC has acknowledged that 83.7% of the Sabal Trail pipeline would affect environmental justice communities. The project includes five compressor stations that will contribute a significant amount of air pollution into communities. One of those compressor stations will be constructed in Albany, GA, within a predominantly African American neighborhood comprised of two large subdivisions, a mobile home park, schools, recreational facilities, and a large church.

Flint Riverkeeper Gordon Rogers said, “The actions of FERC have jeopardized property rights throughout southwest Georgia for small and large landowners alike. The federal government is handing over the awesome power of eminent domain to private investors endangering our rivers, wetlands, underground water supplies, and the health of our communities for a project with no demonstrated public benefit for Georgians.”

FERC granted permits allowing Sabal Trail to be placed across more than 300 miles of limestone karst terrain through southwest Georgia into Florida, crossing the Chattahoochee, Flint, Ochlockonee and Suwannee watersheds. Environmental impact statements note “significant impacts” from the pipeline project to more than 2,000 wetland systems and 4,500 acres of forests. Drilling methods and Spectra Energy’s transport history demonstrate that accidents occur quite frequently, negatively affecting communities and the natural environment.

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The mission of Flint Riverkeeper is to restore and preserve the habitat, water-quality, and flow of the Flint River for the benefit of current and future generations and dependent wildlife.

www.flintriverkeeper.org