

**RILEY KEATON**  
[REDACTED]  
**ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP**  
BANKING AND INSURANCE  
JUDICIARY  
SMALL BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
TECHNOLOGY & INFRASTRUCTURE



**HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

BUILDING 1, ROOM 219E  
1900 KANAWHA BLVD., EAST  
CHARLESTON, WV 25305-0470  
[REDACTED]

Chairman Gary Gensler  
United States Securities and Exchange Commission  
100 F Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20549

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

Chairman Gensler,

I'm writing you as a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates to provide public comment on the SEC's proposed "climate-related disclosure" rule. The communities I represent, and the community I've called home my entire life, depend heavily on America's oil and gas industry for jobs, tax revenue, and our overall economic survival. The severance tax revenue our state collects on coal production elsewhere in the state supports our communities' schools, law enforcement, roads, infrastructure, and economic development efforts.

The climate-related disclosure rules are clearly intended to cut off access to capital for fossil fuel companies. Beyond targeting the fossil fuel industry directly, the rule would ostracize companies doing business with the fossil fuel industry. Efforts like the climate-related disclosure rule, put bluntly, are efforts to starve the economy of communities like mine. The rule should be rejected.

Firstly, these efforts to reduce American carbon emissions kill jobs and drive up the price of fuel, energy, and consumer goods. The human cost of this rule is not hypothetical. Starving the fossil fuel industry of capital at a time like this will hurt American energy production – further driving up gas prices and worsening the inflation crisis.

Secondly, the climate-related disclosure rule would involve SEC in lengthy litigation questioning the rule's constitutionality. The rule likely runs afoul the First Amendment's prohibition against government-compelled speech. More importantly, SEC does not have statutory authority to engage in climate policy.

Finally, China emits twice as much carbon as the United States. A more reasonable version of the climate-related disclosure rule would be a "China-related disclosure rule" to encourage industry to reshore to the United States. Reshoring would create jobs here, raise wages, and reduce carbon emissions due to the shift away from China's weak environmental standards to our own.

As representative of the people of West Virginia, I urge you to reject the proposed climate-related disclosure rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Riley Keaton".

Delegate Riley Keaton