

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TriStates Unite for Safe Energy Says the Public Can't Be Bought

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While the public awaits news on the corruption investigation into dealings between Cuomo's office and the CPV company, the fracked gas industry continues with their corporate arrogance: Millennium Pipeline Company believes it can buy the community by giving \$10,000 to the Town of Wawayanda for a park.

"Gee, how generous! But you can't get much park for that amount," says Naomi Miller, of TriStates Unite for Safe Energy. "That's comparable to what CPV and an affiliate donated to the Governor's campaign... and then they paid lobbyists! At least it proves that the natural gas industry is an equal opportunity influence peddler."

"Ten thousand dollars isn't enough to buy us off for five minutes" says Michael Sussman, an attorney representing affected residents. "Local people have learned the corporation's way of operating: they throw money around to grease approvals that otherwise wouldn't see the light of day." Miller adds, "We will continue to document this corporate greed, and we will trust in the legal system and citizen action to stop this plant from ever being opened".

"This outrageous trick of trying to buy people off with a small donation while setting us up to be exposed to cancer causing chemicals reminds me of JKLM Energy LLC's \$81,000 donation to the Coudersport, PA fire department ...just before they contaminated the local water supply," says Tom Denny, also of TriStates Unite.

The existing Town of Wawayanda park – Shannen Park – has playgrounds within yards of the proposed route for the Millennium Lateral Pipeline: clearly unsafe for children (and their care-takers!). Pipelines around the country leak volatile toxic gases every moment, and explode with frightening frequency. Last month, a pipeline in Salem PA blew, sending flames hundreds of feet into the air.

"Natural" gas lobbying firms have contributed at least \$513,869 to Cuomo since 2008. The companies behind major gas infrastructure projects spent \$1.3 million on lobbying NY State government in 2015, a 119% increase over the amount spent in 2011.

TriStates is an ad hoc group of concerned citizens trying to protect their families and neighbors from the deleterious health effects of chemicals leaked and blown off from so-called "natural" (fracked) gas power plants, compressor stations and pipelines that are now spider-webbing through the Northeast, emanating from the poisoned fracking fields of Pennsylvania.