

## Letters to the Editor

*Last updated January 202*

### What are letters to the editor?

Newspaper letters to the editor (LTEs) are an important way to inform the public, policymakers, and press about an issue and how the public views it. LTEs are an excellent media tactic for “rapid-response” situations and campaigns where we need to demonstrate public support or opposition, or where we wish to pressure a decision maker. LTEs are especially effective for campaigns related to politics and legislation, because legislative staff closely monitor the opinion pages of newspapers in their districts.

### Best practices:

- Find opportunities to write LTEs.
  - Review the media coverage of your issue to help identify LTE-writing opportunities. How can you link your issue to something that’s already in the news? Where is the news coverage lacking balance?
- If you don’t think you’re the right writer, do you know someone who is?
  - Try to find individuals (are you sure it isn’t you?) in your network who are influential in their community to submit LTEs. One way to motivate people to write LTEs is to ask them to “fight back against media misinformation or bias” on a given topic. Connect with people who showed up at a workshop you went to—an indication that they are fired up!
  - Make sure you have the right tools! These include:
    - a message framework (1. Name the problem, 2. Identify the solution, 3. What’s the action needed to create the solution, 4. What’s the benefit?) or very short list of talking points on the topic
    - links to background info or news coverage to respond to
    - links or specific instructions on how to submit an LTE to specific targeted media outlets (see below)

### Letter writing tips:

- Pay attention to a newspaper’s specific LTE guidelines (see links below). Save time by checking these guidelines before you start writing. You can usually find the guidelines on the opinion section of the paper’s website. This will include the email address to send the letter to and required information such as name, email address, hometown, and phone number.
- Know and stick to the word limit (often around 200 words).
- Reference a recent event, local development, or news coverage (eg. a bad bill racing through the legislature).
- Add some personal values/beliefs/emotions to demonstrate your connection to the issue.
- Keep the tone civil.
- Point out a novel or different (and still important) part of the story that is being missed.

## Example **letter to the editor**

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**The Washington Post**  
*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

Letters to the Editor · Opinion

# Northam has cemented these pipelines as part of his legacy



Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam (D) in Arlington on Nov. 13. (Ricky Carioti/The Washington Post)

By **Letters to the Editor**

November 20, 2018

Virginia's State Air Pollution Control Board recently delayed a decision on a permit for a compressor station in Buckingham County that is part of Dominion Energy's Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Last Thursday, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam (D) [ousted two members](#) of the State Air Pollution Control Board, and at least one member of the State Water Control Board, more than four months after their terms ended [["Northam removes 2 board members ahead of key vote on pipeline project,"](#) Metro, Nov. 17]. Each was a voice of reason, opposing the dangerous, dirty pipelines. This seemingly is not a mere coincidence but a clear move by Mr. Northam to ensure that the construction of these destructive pipelines proceeds.

Natural gas pipelines will harm our communities and our environment. They are a threat to our drinking water and public safety. And a [54,000-horsepower compressor station](#) and the array of air pollutants it will spew will have severe consequences for an African American community in Buckingham County.

The [approval](#) of these pipelines has officially become part of Mr. Northam's legacy as governor.

**Kelsey Crane, Manassas**

## Major Daily Texas Newspapers with Opinion Page Information

*(News outlets frequently change their websites, so links and information may change. Be sure to visit the outlet directly to find the most up to date submission guidelines.)*

### **Dallas Morning News**

Opinion page: <https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/>

Submission guidelines/forms:

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/2018/12/02/tips-for-letters-to-the-editor-and-op-ed-submissions/>

Email: [viewpoints@dallasnews.com](mailto:viewpoints@dallasnews.com)

### **Fort Worth Star-Telegram**

Opinion page: <https://www.star-telegram.com/opinion>

Submission guidelines/forms:

[www.star-telegram.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/submit-letter/](http://www.star-telegram.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/submit-letter/)

Email: [rusak@star-telegram.com](mailto:rusak@star-telegram.com) (Ryan Rusak - Opinion Editor)

Phone: 817-390-7830

### **Midland Reporter Telegram**

Opinion page: <https://www.mrt.com/opinion/>

Submission guidelines/forms: (scroll down to "Letter to the Editor") [www.mrt.com/contact/](http://www.mrt.com/contact/)

Email: [letters@mrt.com](mailto:letters@mrt.com)

Phone: 432-687-8856

### **Austin American-Statesman**

Opinion page: [www.statesman.com/opinion/](http://www.statesman.com/opinion/)

Submission guidelines/forms: [www.statesman.com/article/20141113/NEWS/311139505](http://www.statesman.com/article/20141113/NEWS/311139505)

Email: [letters@statesman.com](mailto:letters@statesman.com)

Phone: 512-912-2952

### **San Antonio Express-News**

Opinion page: [www.expressnews.com/opinion/](http://www.expressnews.com/opinion/)

Submission guidelines/forms:

[www.expressnews.com/opinion/article/Express-News-Letters-To-The-Editor-15856654.php](http://www.expressnews.com/opinion/article/Express-News-Letters-To-The-Editor-15856654.php)

Email: [letters@express-news.net](mailto:letters@express-news.net)

Phone: 210-250-3000

### **The Eagle**

Opinion page: <https://theeagle.com/opinion/#tracking-source=main-nav>

**Submission guidelines/forms:** [https://theeagle.com/site/forms/online\\_services/letter/](https://theeagle.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/)  
**Email:** [letters@theeagle.com](mailto:letters@theeagle.com)  
**Phone:** (979) 731-4653

### **Houston Chronicle**

**Opinion page:** [www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/](http://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/)  
**Submission guidelines/forms:** [www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/submit/](http://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/submit/)  
**See also:**  
<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/article/How-to-submit-letters-op-ed-to-Houston-Chronicle-15794874.php>  
**Email:** [viewpoints@chron.com](mailto:viewpoints@chron.com)  
**Phone:** (713) 362-7211

### **Beaumont Enterprise**

**Opinion page:** [www.beaumontenterprise.com/opinions/](http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/opinions/)  
**Submission guidelines/forms:** [www.beaumontenterprise.com/services/submit/](http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/services/submit/)  
**Email:** [Opinions@BeaumontEnterprise.com](mailto:Opinions@BeaumontEnterprise.com), [ttschinger@hearstnp.com](mailto:ttschinger@hearstnp.com)  
**Phone:** (409) 838-2887

### **Caller Times (Corpus Christi)**

**Opinion page:** [www.caller.com/opinions/](http://www.caller.com/opinions/)  
**Submission guidelines/forms:** [static.caller.com/submit-letter/](http://static.caller.com/submit-letter/)  
**Email:** [ctletters@caller.com](mailto:ctletters@caller.com)  
**Phone:** 844-900-7096

### **Galveston Daily News**

**Opinion page:** [www.galvnews.com/opinion/](http://www.galvnews.com/opinion/)  
**Submission guidelines/forms:** [www.galvnews.com/site/forms/online\\_services/letter/](http://www.galvnews.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/)  
**Phone:** (409) 683-5206

### **My RGV News (Brownsville Herald, Valley Star, The Monitor)**

**Opinion page:** [myrgv.com/category/local-news/](http://myrgv.com/category/local-news/)  
**Submission guidelines/forms:** [myrgv.com/submit-letter-to-the-editor/](http://myrgv.com/submit-letter-to-the-editor/)  
**Email:** [letters@brownsvilleherald.com](mailto:letters@brownsvilleherald.com), [letters@valleystar.com](mailto:letters@valleystar.com), [news@themonitor.com](mailto:news@themonitor.com),  
**Phone:** (956)542-4301 (Brownsville Herald), (956)430-6215 (Valley Star), (956) 683-4400 (Monitor)