

Dear Senators Kaine and Warner, Representative Hurt, and Governor McAuliffe:

I am requesting that you fully and forcefully oppose the construction of Dominion's Atlantic Coast Pipeline. This 550-mile, high-pressure, transmission/storage line for fracked methane would irreparably harm the quality of life of central Virginia's residents and property owners, as well as the natural resources on which our region's economy depends.

Prior to granting construction permission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is supposed to weigh the potential benefit of a pipeline against the potential harm its construction and operation would cause. But in reality, FERC's commissioners and the regulatory process have become so intertwined with the Gas Industry applicants purportedly being regulated, that FERC has never denied an application for a new project!

In a recent letter to the Inspector General of the Department of Energy, the New Hampshire congressional delegation requested an examination of FERC's permitting process, noting FERC's lack of responsiveness to public concerns and their preemption of local and state sovereignty. The delegation asked that particular attention be paid to the evaluation of whether a project serves the public interest at all. I ask you to join the NH delegation in this call to investigate FERC's process immediately.

All of you have indicated a belief that increased use of fracked gas, both at home and for export, can be balanced with important concerns such as water pollution, climate change and property rights. But it is increasingly evident that private Gas Industry greed—not public need—is behind the sudden push for fracked gas and related infrastructure. Protections for Virginians' property, water and other public resources need to be firmly established before Dominion is allowed to proceed. Illustrating the current (flagrant) lack of protection for Virginians, the Natural Gas Act governing eminent domain allowances for pipeline companies, does not even grant Virginians the right to have their cases heard in Virginia courts. The poor oversight and enforcement endemic to Virginia's *Department of Environmental Quality* and the *Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration* also need to be fixed first, for the health and safety of all Virginians. If these agencies were seriously doing their jobs, they would certainly find the risks to the public far outweigh any benefits.

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is the wrong choice for Virginia. This multi-billion dollar, long-term investment in climate-polluting fossil fuels displaces much needed investment in renewable energy options, and delays our country's transition to a "clean energy economy." Instead of following less-damaging, existing utility corridors, the ACP's current "preferred route" cuts through the steep and highly erosion-prone Allegheny and Blue Ridge Mountains—renowned for recreational opportunities, invaluable biodiversity, and pristine headwaters—all of which benefit populations extending far beyond our region. The ACP and its potentially perpetual construction zone—as wide as an 8-lane highway—would bisect National Forests, the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Appalachian Scenic Trail, and countless private properties. The ACP would cause irreparable harm to water, scenery, and tourism for Virginians, and visitors to the Commonwealth.

Please let me know the specific measures you will take to protect the health, safety, and prosperity of Virginians and the Commonwealth from the threats posed by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____
