

Hi, my name is Merri Ehrhard and I own over 15 acres in Nelson County, 5 of which are in Horizons Village. We pay taxes on this land and we vote. I say “own”, while really I don’t. I am just a steward of that land while I am here.

This picture of the earth from the moon made famous by our space explorations of the late 60’s and early 70’s reminds us that this is the earth, our island home. It is all that we have and we must be good stewards of her gifts.

To quote a verse from the 95th Psalm:

“The Earth is His and He made it

His hands prepared the dry land”

Who are we to desecrate this land and the homes of the animals and plants we share it with.

I chose my career path over 40 years ago because of this love of the environment. I am certified to teach both biology and earth science by the state of Virginia, so I feel qualified to recognize the negative impacts that a pipeline could have on both the biotic and abiotic factors of the environment. We chose Nelson County and Horizon’s Village specifically for the pristine wildness and concern that our neighbors share for it. No amount of money could make up for the loss should a pipeline be built here.

As much as it is said that natural gas is a cleaner source of energy, what goes into producing it is not. All the propaganda in the advertisements put out by the American Petroleum Institute and Dominion Power won’t change the fact that the gas that comes through this pipeline comes from fracking and fracking is not good for the environment. One can’t evaluate the pipeline alone without taking into consideration what travels in this pipeline and the processes that go into its construction. It has to be examined as a whole—from the mountain top eradication in West Virginia to the silting in the Chesapeake Bay.

Please note Executive Order #13604. In it The President of the United States says in section 3. B. i, that “outcomes for communities and the environment” must be improved. Nothing about this pipeline improves our community or the environment. The pipeline does not belong in Horizons Village, Nelson County or anywhere near here. We hope it matters to you that many voters do not want this.