



For Immediate Release

Contact: Joanna Salidis
434-242-5859
friendsofnelson@gmail.com

Ernie Reed
434-971-1647
lec@wildvirginia.org

Outraged Nelson County Residents Welcome Governor McAuliffe to Nelson County

Nelson County residents are outraged that Governor McAuliffe has chosen to visit Nelson County today yet has expressed no interest in meeting with residents over the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Residents are present at today's ceremonial ribbon-cutting in Lovingston at Virginia Distillery Company, protesting the governor's dismissal of their concerns.

The Virginia Distillery Company is the latest business to open in Nelson County that depends entirely on the high quality of the water and the natural beauty "that captures the essence...here in the mountains of Virginia."

Ernie Reed, Vice-President of Friends of Nelson said, "Nelson County is a brand to make any business proud. However, no business and no Nelson County resident will be immune to the unnatural disaster that the Atlantic Coast Pipeline would unleash on us."

More than 1200 Virginia residents signed an invitation that was delivered to the Governor two weeks ago that invited him to visit the county and to meet with local residents whose lives are being forever changed by Dominion's proposal. The governor has promoted the pipeline since it was first announced at a press conference in May of 2014.

"The governor has slammed his door in our face over the Atlantic Coast Pipeline," said Joanna Salidis, Friends of Nelson President. "He has ignored its costs, fabricated its benefits, and refused to advocate for the kind of regulatory process

that would show the truth. His is a business plan for disaster that steals our property and water rights, forever scars our land and mortgages our future.”

“Today,” Salidis continued, ”the Governor wields scissors in one hand and thumbs his nose at Nelson County with the other.”

Dominion’s proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline would, if built across Nelson County, cross over 26 miles of the County, through over 90 properties. Dominion has over 50 active suits against Nelson County property owners in order to try to force access for surveying; 65% of Nelson County property owners on the route still deny Dominion permission despite these suits and repeated requests from the company.

Reed concluded, “It remains our governor’s responsibility to meet with his constituents on this, the single-most important issue of our time and of his tenure.”

-#-