

# Protecting the heritage, resources and economy of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge region

The Allegheny Blue-Ridge Alliance (ABRA) is a coalition of 50 organizations, founded in September 2014, that opposes the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP), a project of Dominion Resources and its partner companies. The ACP would disrupt some of the most ecologically sensitive areas in the Eastern United States, including portions of the George Washington and Monongahela National Forests. The proposed route would traverse steep mountain slopes and fragile karst topography, presenting a potential hazard to regional water supplies. Further, it would bring unjustified risks and costs to many rural communities in its path, negatively affecting property rights and values, without benefits to those affected.

#### What ABRA does

- Produces and distributes to members a weekly e-newsletter on the latest developments on the ACP and other relevant pipeline news, plus special alerts.
- Maintains a website as a resource for key documents, studies, regulatory actions and other pipeline issue developments (<u>www.abralliance.org</u>).
- Communicates with key public officials, the media and the general public on pipeline issues, including press releases, letters to the editor and speeches that explain the concerns about the ACP, particularly as it affects the Allegheny-Blue Ridge region.
- Assists member organizations in creating programs and grass roots strategies, by developing materials, conducting workshops and seminars and through individual consultations.
- Coordinates strategies among members to maximize collective effectiveness.
- Conducts and publicizes studies to provide substantiation for arguments about the ACP, included economic need and impacts, effects on water and steep mountain terrains, ecological impacts, pipeline safety and government actions on the ACP.

#### **ABRA Members**

(\*has member on Steering Committee)

Allegheny Highlands Alliance\* All Pain No Gain\* Appalachian Mountain Advocates\* Appalachian Voices\* Augusta County Alliance\* BioQuest Solutions Chesapeake Climate Action Network Climate Action Alliance of the Valley Conservation Partners Cooper Conservation Advisors, LLC Cowpasture River Preservation Association Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition\*

Eight Rivers Council Friends of Augusta Friends of Blackwater

Friends of Buckingham Virginia\* Friends of the Central Shenandoah

Friends of the Middle River Friends of Nelson County

Friends of Shenandoah Mountain

Friends of Water Free Nelson

Greenbrier River Watershed Association

**Highland County Cave Survey** 

Highlanders for Responsible Development\* Jackson River Preservation Association, Inc.

James River Association

**Mountain Lakes Preservation Association** 

**Pipeline Education Group** 

Rockbridge Area Conservation Council

Shaver's Fork Coalition

Shenandoah Group of the Sierra Club

Shenandoah Riverkeeper

Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation

Shenandoah Valley Network\* Sierra Club – Virginia Chapter\*

Southern Environmental Law Center\* Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter,

Potomack Appalachian Trail Club

Valley Conservation Council Virginia Native Plant Society Virginia Wilderness Committee

**Voices From Bath** 

Waterkeepers Chesapeake

West Virginia Environmental Council West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

West Virginia Rivers Coalition\*
West Virginians for Property Rights

Whitescarver Natural Resources Management, LLC

Wild Virginia\*

Yogaville Satchidananda Ashram\*

### How we operate

ABRA is governed by a 14-member Steering Committee comprised of representatives of member organizations (\* on list above). Policy positions are subject to membership approval. The Steering Committee is responsible for interpreting policy and developing implementation plans. Staff (Chair/Executive Director and a Communications Coordinator) carry out implementation.

## How we are supported

ABRA's activities are supported by grants from philanthropic foundations, donations from ABRA member organizations and contributions from individuals. ABRA's fiscal agent is Highlanders for Responsible Development, a 501 (c)(3), tax-exempt organization. Contributions from individuals are welcome. Checks should be made out to "Highlanders for Responsible Development – ABRA" and mailed to:

Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance P.O. Box 685 Monterey, VA 24465.

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<u>For further information, contact:</u> Lewis Freeman, Chair/Executive Director

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