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Pipeline route walk to start near Bolar on Saturday

BOLAR — This Saturday, June 17, "Walking the Line: Into the Heart of Virginia" will step out for a two-week walk along the Virginia portion of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline route that will span five counties and 150 miles.

Starting near Bolar and ending at Union Hill in Buckingham County, key organizer Lee White's vision for the walk is "a celebratory, peaceful walk of resistance to share the stories of the communities and the beauty of the land that would be impacted to raise awareness and to help ensure that these ill-conceived plans do not come to fruition."

Collaborating with landowners, congregations, pipeline education and resistance groups, and individuals from all over Virginia, the walk organizers issued a series of compelling invitations.

"Walk with us for an hour or a day or the entire two weeks," they said in a statement this week. "Invite us to listen to your community along our way. Join our free Walking the Line Celebration Concert in Staunton where we will film the second version of our progressive song video, 'Sow Em on the Mountain.' Create your own verse for 'Sow Em on the Mountain' and let us know you plan to come and sing it at the concert. Help us sow new seeds for our land, our air, our water, and our children."

"Sow Em on the Mountain" is a traditional song which reminds people that "we're going reap just what we sow," said Kay Leigh Ferguson, whose group ARTivism is supporting the walk. "If we allow Dominion Power to sow greed and destruction and poison on our mountains, we will reap just that in our valleys. It just ain't gonna happen."

The June 23 concert — 6-9 p.m. at the Sunspots Pavilion, Staunton — is a family-style event with a little bit of speechifying about the dangers to Staunton's water supply should the ACP be built. A talented and diverse group of artists including Lorie Lichtenwalner and Friends, Love Army Ukulele Brigade, True Worship, Boxcar Speakeasy, the Robey Family Band, and the Rick Olivarez Trio will perform.

Rain or shine with tents and chairs for audience with reservations. Doors open at 5 p.m. Food and drink will be on hand from The Saucy Bird, The Dirty Bean, and Three Notch'd Brewery, and children's play space will be available courtesy Little Planets. Cash is needed for food and drink, and donations are welcome.

For all the ways to participate, get involved, or support the group, see <u>www.walkingtheline.org</u>, or email: <u>walkingthelineva@gmail.com</u>.