

FERC: 18 MARCH, 2015

Thank you. My name is Andrew Gantt. I own some 800 acres of land near Wingina, in the Southern part of Nelson County. I have a ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University, spent my professional career as an international economist working with the International Monetary Fund. I have visited 77 countries in Europe, the former Soviet Union, Asia, and Latin America during my lifetime, given advice on economic policy to perhaps two thirds of these. These countries include dictatorships, communist and socialist countries, and a very few true democracies.

In a many of these countries I have encountered situations where some combination of government and non-government interests expropriate land from unwilling citizens. Usually, the reasons are bogus—those in power simply want money or profits they derive from stealing land.

Unfortunately, that is the present case in Nelson County. Dominion wants our land, whether we wish to part with it or not. They have greased the wheels to accomplish this by paying off politicians. Our present governor has received at least \$150,000 from Dominion, other politicians lesser amounts. This is not altruistic giving. Dominion expects a quid quo pro for this gift. In its essence, it's a

bribe. In return, Dominion has been granted the opportunity to write laws that benefit it in the energy area. These laws are rubber stamped by the Va legislature, then passed onto our happy governor for his signature.

Given these bought mandates, Dominion comes to me and says in essence, “We’re coming on your land. But tell us your “sensitive” places and we’ll try to avoid them.”

Virginia’s government and Dominion doesn’t seem to understand. THIS IS MY LAND. My family has owned this land continuously since 1738—two generations before the establishment of the United States. We have cared for it: run it as a de facto conservation easement. We have managed to hold onto it through family wealth and poverty. The farm trees produce oxygen enough for 6400 people. We run it as a nature preserve: our sightings include even a cougar. I have boxes of Indian artifacts found on the place, and it includes a slave graveyard.

In addition, there is little or no national justification for Dominion’s planned expropriation. We are awash in a sea of energy. The pipeline is not necessary. And, perhaps more importantly, there are many alternative routes which do not destroy new land. One such is the old canal bed originally called the James River and Kanawha Canal which follows the route that Dominion is contemplating from

Covington to Richmond. This canal was built by my ancestor Joseph Carrington Cabell. There are power lines. There are median strips in interstates. There are many alternatives to the destruction of the private property of perhaps 4000 households on Dominion's present routes.

I DO NOT WANT DOMINION ON MY PLACE. I should be allowed to say "NO". So far, I have spent some \$20,000 in such efforts. I have sued to prevent survey, created a large conservation easement and so forth.

As Churchill famously said when England was in extremis and faced with its own expropriator—Germany.

"We shall go on until the end....We shall defend our [land] whatever the cost may be....We shall fight in the fields and streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender."

In the energy field, FERC is similar to the International Monetary Fund in country finance

. Both organizations come to a situation, separate the wheat from the chaff, and turn the wheat into real progress. I hope that you will see that this pipeline is simply chaff, and not give it permission to destroy our land.