



March 19, 2015

FERC public meeting on Atlantic Coast Pipeline
Stuarts Draft, VA

I am Lynn Cameron, co-chair of Friends of Shenandoah Mountain, a coalition working toward Congressional designation of the Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area on the George Washington National Forest. We are opposed to the pipeline route across Shenandoah Mountain.

The Shenandoah Mountain area is the best of the remaining wildlands in the Eastern United States, and it is the HEART of the George Washington National Forest.

Shenandoah Mountain stands out in terms of recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and water resources. With 10 peaks above 4,000', it is one of the highest and most rugged parts of Virginia with headwaters of both the Potomac and James Rivers. It is the source of drinking water for Staunton and Harrisonburg and many towns and cities downstream. It is home to 250 species of birds, rare salamanders and wildflowers, native brook trout, black bear, and much more. This area lies within a Biodiversity Hotspot identified by The Nature Conservancy, and it is an "Outstanding Ecological Core" identified by the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is also a recreational hub for the whole region. Its pristine streams, abundant wildlife, and scenic beauty draw hikers, mountain bikers, hunters, fishermen, horseback riders, backpackers, and naturalists from all around.

Much collaboration has gone into the Scenic Area Proposal. It has been endorsed by over 220 organizations and businesses, and diverse forest stakeholders. The new forest plan officially recommends that Shenandoah Mountain be designated as a National Scenic Area.

We are concerned that the pipeline route cuts through the edge of the proposed National Scenic Area. It crosses scenic Rt. 250, which is a major gateway for visitors from Staunton, Charlottesville, Richmond, and beyond. It crosses the access road to Braley Pond, one of the most popular recreation areas in the GW. It crosses Calfpasture Road, the main access to Elkhorn Lake, Staunton Dam, Todd Lake, and the North River headwaters, - and it crosses Hankey Mountain, an area actively managed for grouse, turkey and deer.

Shenandoah Mountain's scenic beauty and recreational resources support our thriving local tourism-based economy and associated jobs. Visitor spending is growing every year. Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County together had \$200 million in 2013.

Given how special the Shenandoah Mountain area is and the fact that it has been proposed by citizens and recommended by the Forest Service as a National Scenic Area, we don't think this is an appropriate location for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. A pipeline would leave a permanent scar through this area and destroy the natural character of one of Virginia's crown jewels.

Shenandoah Mountain is like the goose that keeps laying golden eggs. Please - don't let Dominion kill the goose!

Lynn Cameron
Co-Chair, Friends of Shenandoah Mountain
5653 Beards Ford Rd.
Mt. Crawford, VA 22841
www.friendsofshenandoahmountain.org
slynncameron@gmail.com
(540)234-6273