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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES RICHMOND

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
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COURTS OF JUSTICE
COMMERCE AND LABOR
MILITIA, POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

March 1, 2016

Ms. Kimberly Bose, Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, NE Washington, DC 20426

Dear Ms. Bose:

I am writing to you with regard to the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline in Virginia. As a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, I represent the people of the 24th House District, which includes Bath County. As you may know, Dominion Resources recently announced, following a ruling by the United States Forest Service, that they were rerouting the pipeline project into the northern part of Bath County.

Although I am generally supportive of a comprehensive approach to exploration and production of energy resources, which includes pipeline transmission of natural gas and crude oil, I have a number of concerns regarding Dominion's proposed new route.

My first concern relates to the possibility of erosion and sediment pollution of several significant waterways in Bath County. The Commonwealth of Virginia has an abundance of natural resources and waterways, and I do not want this area in Bath County to be harmed by the proposed new route, as this area is already vulnerable to water pollution from sinkholes and fracture systems. It is my hope that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will seriously study this before granting permission to construct a large pipeline in this area.

Second, the newly proposed route means that there are 249 additional landowners living in Augusta, Bath, and Highland counties, along with landowners in Randolph and Pocahontas counties in West Virginia, who will be affected. It is my understanding that around 80 of these will be in my district in Bath County. Since the announcement of the new route, I have received letters from several of my constituents who are concerned about the effect that this move could have on their land, including one constituent whose family farm has belonged to them since the Revolutionary War.

I have asked Dominion to look at all alternative options as they continue to survey for their pipeline. It is my hope that these alternative routes would have little effect on private property by using rights of way and easements already in existence by power and telephone lines. I am writing to ask that FERC take this into consideration as the decision regarding this pipeline is made.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you, or if you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Ben Cline

Member, Virginia House of Delegates