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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, **BC** 20515-4605

May 21, 2015

Mr. Norman C. Bay, Chairman Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First St N.E. Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Chairman Bay:

Thank you for your recent letter in response to my April 16 letter regarding the Atlantic Coast Pipeline initiative. I was disappointed that FERC denied my request to hold an additional scoping meeting so the residents of Nelson County, Virginia, and the surrounding areas could express their views on this matter. More than 60 percent of those who attended the scoping meeting in Nelson County and requested time to offer brief remarks were not afforded the opportunity to do so. Robust opportunities for public input are critical to any significant initiative in a community, particularly one that involves the public health and safety and private property rights.

I appreciate the fact that this process is far from complete. As you stated in your letter, should the applicants file an application with the Commission, FERC will hold additional public meetings to take comments on an Environmental Impact Statement and other matters. Given the significant level of community interest in this initiative and your experience with the recent scoping meetings, I expect that FERC will make the necessary adjustments to accommodate all persons that seek the opportunity to comment publicly at future meetings in the communities along the proposed routes. FERC should schedule an adequate number of meetings and be prepared to arrive early to these meetings and stay late to ensure that all those who wish to offer a brief oral comment have the opportunity to do so.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions or additional information.

Singe ely,

Robert Hurt