



Governor Northam: Please Visit the Limperts' Old Growth Forest in Bath County and See Why You Should Oppose the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley pipelines

August 2018

From:

Virginia Community Leaders

To:

Governor Ralph Northam
Executive Mansion, Commonwealth of Virginia
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Northam,

We are Virginia leaders of all races, ages, religions, and backgrounds representing every corner of our great Commonwealth. We write to you today out of our conviction that clean water, clean air, and a healthy community are basic moral rights for every resident of the Commonwealth.

But energy companies Dominion Energy and EQT/NextEra are trying to force two massive and unnecessary pipelines for fracked gas through Virginia: The Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Mountain Valley Pipeline. These gas superhighways, if built, would lock us into the failed and polluting energy paradigm of the last century. As you read this letter, tree-felling and construction are already underway in communities across Virginia to make room for these pipelines. But it's not too late for you, Governor, to see the impacts for yourself and to direct your key environmental agency to protect Virginians and their water from these projects.

The home of Bill and Lynn Limpert in Bath County represents what's at stake. Their property, known locally as "Miracle Ridge," is home to some of the most pristine old-growth forest land in the country. Many of these trees pre-date our country's founding, including a 300-year-old sugar maple the Limperts have named "Ona"— an old Hebrew name meaning, appropriately, "graceful." Dominion's Atlantic Coast Pipeline would cut right through the Limperts' land, killing these irreplaceable trees and taking 30 feet off the top of Miracle Ridge.

Bill and Lynn have opened their home and land to people from across the region to bear witness to some of the treasures that Virginians could be forced to sacrifice for these two unnecessary fracked-gas

pipelines. Dozens of people from Bath County and beyond have already spent time on the Limperts' land this summer. **Now we ask that you join the Limperts — before the summer ends — for a tour of Miracle Ridge.**

You have consistently and publicly stated your desire to hold these two pipeline projects to the highest environmental standards. We believe that such a standard can be met only by rejecting the one-size-fits-all Nationwide Permit 12 process in favor of a comprehensive stream-by-stream analysis under Clean Water Act Section 401. In addition to visiting the Limperts property and seeing for yourself what's at stake, we join the chorus of legislators, faith leaders, landowners, scientists, and other leaders in asking you to direct the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to require an individual review of stream crossings under section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Your help has never been more urgently needed. Construction of the ACP could begin in Bath County — and beyond — in a few short months. Construction of the MVP is already underway. The choices you make regarding these pipelines will profoundly affect the people of Virginia for decades to come. Please do the right thing.

Sincerely,

350 Central Virginia
350 Fairfax
350 Loudoun
Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance (ABRA)
Appalachian Voices
ARTivism
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
Buckingham: We the People
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Chesapeake Pipeline Resistance
Christians For The Mountains
Climate Action Alliance of the Valley
Climate Reality Project: Central and Southern Virginia Chapter
Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition
Eight Rivers Council
Free Nelson
Friends of Augusta
Friends of Buckingham
Friends of Nelson
Friends of the Middle River
Greater Prince William Climate Action Network
Greenfaith
Indivisible Peninsula
Indivisible Virginia
Interfaith Power and Light (NoVA/DC/MD)

Liberal Women of Chesterfield County
Oil Change International
Old-Growth Forest Network
Our Revolution Northern Virginia
Pipeline Education Group
Potomac Riverkeeper Network
Preserve Montgomery County
Preserve Roanoke/Bent Mountain
Preserve Salem
Preserve Floyd
Rockingham Alliance for the Protection and Transformation of Our Resources and Society (RAPTORS)
Roanoke River Prayer Group
Rockfish Valley Foundation
Rockfish Valley Investments, LLC
Shenandoah Riverkeepers
The Center for Biological Diversity (Norfolk)
The New River Conservancy
Vine & Fig
Virginia Citizens Consumer Council
Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action
Virginia Interfaith Power and Light
Virginia NAACP
Virginia Native Plant Society
Virginia Organizing
Virginia Pipeline Resisters
Virginia River Healers
Voices from Bath
Wild Virginia
Yogaville Environmental Solutions