



The Honorable Governor Ralph S. Northam
1111 E. Broad Street
Richmond VA 23219

February 27, 2018

Dear Governor Northam:

Thank you for your inaugural commitment to clean water for all Virginians. We look forward to supporting you and your team in those and other important efforts.

We are particularly heartened by the call you've made for over a year, beginning with your letter to the DEQ on February 14, 2017, for *individual, site-specific review* of water pollution impacts for every crossing of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Mountain Valley Pipeline, rather than reliance on blanket permits. We strongly agree with you: an individualized evaluation of these pipelines' pollution impacts, guided by your call to use the best available scientific evidence, in a transparent, public process, is the best way to ensure protection of Virginia's waters.

It is now time to fulfill your commitments on behalf of Virginians: now that the Trump administration's Army Corps of Engineers has completed its blanket permits, there is a limited window in which you must exercise the state's right to conduct the evaluations you've called for. Only in this way can you ensure that Virginia's authority over its waters is not ceded to a flawed federal blanket permitting process, and that our clean water will be protected.

To deliver on your call for individual reviews of site-specific water crossings of every crossing, your administration must first determine the high-priority water resource categories particularly at risk of pipeline pollution. As outlined in the enclosed report, these priority, threatened resources include the Chesapeake Bay watershed, public drinking water supplies, already-impaired waterways, vulnerable native trout streams, environmental justice community water supplies, and valuable wetlands. Such a review is essential to identify which crossings are most at risk, to then properly analyze whether each crossing can be protected with reasonable assurance that Virginia's water quality standards will be met.

Now that the Trump administration's review is done, Virginians are counting on you.

We call on you to fulfill your inaugural promise to ensure protection of clean water for all Virginians, by directing your agencies to begin your proposed individual, site-specific water crossings review immediately.

The proposed pipelines are also a threat to your economic and climate change commitments. Expert economic analysis submitted at the State Corporation Commission, uncontested by Dominion, shows that Dominion ratepayers could pay well over two billion dollars for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, erasing any purported job gains touted by Dominion for the unneeded, duplicative project. Lastly, each pipeline would lock in decades of unnecessary carbon pollution, undercutting climate gains you make elsewhere in your term.

We look forward to supporting you in closer scrutiny of both pipelines, to protect Virginians from these unnecessary water, economic, and climate harms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Town".

Mike Town, Executive Director,
Virginia LCV

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Wetzler".

Andrew Wetzler, Managing Director,
Nature Program, NRDC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Lashof".

Dan Lashof, Vice President, Policy,
NextGen America

cc: Chief of Staff Clark Mercer
Secretary of Natural Resources Matthew Strickler
DEQ Director David Paylor