



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

LAMONT BAGBY
General Assembly Building
Post Office Box 406
Richmond, Virginia 23218

SEVENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

December 16, 2015

The Honorable Norman C. Bay and Commissioners
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 1st Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Docket # CP15-554-000 (Atlantic Coast Pipeline) & Docket #CP16-10-000 (Mountain Valley Pipeline)

Dear Chairman Bay and Commissioners,

As a member of the Virginia General Assembly, I write to you today to respectfully request that you develop a comprehensive Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, Mountain Valley Pipeline, Appalachian Connector Pipeline, and WB Xpress project proposals.

According to White House guidance, a programmatic EIS provides a "more comprehensive picture of the consequences of multiple proposed actions." Due to the narrow geographic and temporal scope of these projects, I believe a programmatic EIS is necessary to understand the full impacts of this development, should all four of these projects proceed.

The potential for cumulative impacts of these projects is quite large. Below are a few that I feel warrant your particular consideration:

- Increasing the region's greenhouse gas emissions, including emissions related to transmission, increased drilling, and increased combustion of natural gas.
- Adversely affecting the region's air quality.
- Impacts on the national forest lands in the region, including the loss of forest habitat and the disruption of forest habitat connectivity.
- Harm to water quality and watersheds providing drinking water.
- Impacts to the national parks throughout the region including the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, including fragmentation to intact-forested areas, impacts to interior forest species, and disruption to viewsheds and visitor experience.

Chairman Bay

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I am especially concerned by the fact that if all four-pipeline projects are completed, developers will have spent a total of nearly \$17 billion on new fossil fuel infrastructure in the region. At a time when scientists tell us we must transition to renewable energy to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. The decision to approve these pipelines cannot be made without considering the extent to which they would displace the development of renewable energy. A Programmatic EIS would allow FERC to develop and assess alternatives—including developing renewable energy within the region—that would minimize or avoid the impacts of these pipelines.

Congress has given the Commission the critical task of striking the right balance between approving necessary energy development while also safeguarding the environment, the community, and private property. With so much at stake in this region, I believe a Programmatic EIS will help the Commission—and the public—understand the full impact of these pipeline projects.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lamont Bagby

Representative – 74th District

cc: Thomas Uybarretta, State Program Director – Environmental Protection Agency
Jennifer P. Adams, Special Project Coordinator – U.S. Forest Service

Document Content(s)

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