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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
COURTS OF JUSTICE
EDUCATION
COMMERCE AND LABOR

SEVENTY-FIRST DISTRICT

February 16, 2016

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

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

Dear Chairman Bay and Commissioners Clark, Honorable, Moeller, and LaFleur:

I write to you today to share my views on docket # CP15-554-000 (Atlantic Coast Pipeline) & docket #CP16-10-000 (Mountain Valley Pipeline). While I do not have a position on whether this project should be approved, I have been contacted by a number of constituents who have shared apprehension about these projects related to environmental impacts, community benefits, and overall consideration for the input of the public.

As energy development expands to meet demand, I appreciate the complexity of striking a balance between energy infrastructure, preservation, and the protection of property rights. Within those complexities energy infrastructure should maintain the least disruptive impact to the community and environment.

The potential impact these projects might have on the Commonwealth of Virginia's waterways is particularly concerning. Both the ACP and the MVP propose hundreds of crossings of streams, rivers and wetlands. The ACP and MVP are two of four natural gas pipeline projects proposed in close proximity to each other. Despite one's personal views on these projects, the communities surrounding these pipeline infrastructures bear the potential risk and deserve the most thorough information available.

Communities in the Commonwealth of Virginia are asking if a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) would provide a more holistic assessment of the combined pipeline projects', Atlantic Coast, Mountain Valley, Appalachian Connector, WB Xpress, overall regional environmental impact. In response to numerous calls for FERC to conduct a PEIS, the agency has stated that it "does not direct the development of the gas industry's infrastructure, either on a broad regional basis or in the design of specific projects. Nor does it engage in regional planning exercises that would result in the selection of one project over another." I urge FERC to consider how a PEIS will give decision makers and the public the fullest possible scope of information to ensure the best decisions are made for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I strongly believe expert analysis is needed to determine the infrastructure decisions of these large scale pipeline infrastructures, and would encourage FERC to exhaust all potential development efforts to ensure the protection of environmental and community concerns. In the midst of challenging and complex considerations, I urge FERC to take all necessary steps to ensure the individuals and communities affected by this process have access to thorough and accurate information related to overall environmental impacts, community benefits, and easy access to engage in the public comment process. Thank you for your time, and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer L. McClellan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Delegate Jennifer L. McClellan

Virginia House of Delegates, 71st District