



Shenandoah Valley Network

March 12, 2015

Mr. Joseph Paxton
Rockingham County Administrator
20 East Gay Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Dear Mr. Paxton,

Please share this letter with the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors, expressing my sincere thanks for their leadership in voting to deny the Carrizo (Marcellus) LLC request for a special use permit for shale gas drilling and production near Bergton. The proposed well would have been the first in Virginia's Marcellus shale to use unconventional horizontal drilling (fracking) to access natural gas.

Shenandoah Valley Network and our conservation partners greatly appreciate that the Rockingham Board of Supervisors did not leave this permit request open indefinitely. We agree that in the five years since the well was first proposed, there have been more questions than answers about how shale gas drilling can negatively impact local communities and natural resources.

Rockingham County's action on the well permit – and the U.S. Forest Service's decision to bar any new oil or gas leasing on the 84 percent of the George Washington National Forest over which the agency has jurisdiction – are significant milestones in preserving our rural heritage in the Shenandoah Valley.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan W. Gallagher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Megan Gallagher
Interim Director