

Fred and Christine Andreae
367 Overall Road
Bentonville, VA 22610

January 12, 2017

Ms. Stephanie Ridder, Chairman
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
39 Garrett Street, Suite 200
Warrenton, VA 20186

By email: bcabibbo@vofonline.org

RE: Application for conversion/diversion under VA Code 10.1.1704

Dear Ms. Ridder,

We are writing as VOF easement donors in the Page Valley – a VOF priority area. Since 1999, we have protected approximately 1000 acres with six VOF conservation easements. Some of the easements protect land that borders the Shenandoah National Park. Others protect land along the South Fork of the Shenandoah River and bordering the George Washington National Forest.

Together with Scenic 340 Project, a grassroots conservation advocacy group, we have educated our neighbors and facilitated the donation of easements held by VOF. The result of this long-term (17 year) effort is that now almost 1800 acres in the Page Valley form a VOF protected wildlife corridor that connects the Shenandoah National Park on the east with the George Washington National Forest on the west.

Given the promise that VOF would protect these lands in perpetuity, and that the state would defend our easements, we chose VOF over private land trusts to hold our easements.

Now, however, if VOF caves to Dominion pipeline, the promise of future protection will be broken. VOF easements will be without enduring protective value. We urge VOF to stand firm, even in the face of threats to cut off VOF funds. If the Virginia legislature “defunds” VOF, it will have to “sleep” until the legislature changes. A sleep, be it four or eight years, is a better choice than betraying trust.

Sincerely,



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