

Senator Tim Kaine
388 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Kaine:

As time goes on, it becomes increasingly clear to us that the safety of our homes and communities cannot be trusted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's "business as usual."

FERC's approval process fails to consider the purpose of pipelines, beyond the requirement for contracts to purchase the gas. This methodology allows those who purchase the ACP's initial services to turn around and sell them to others—such as exporters. Dominion's insistence that the ACP would lower domestic gas prices by increasing reliability has no accountability.

Unfortunately, the same thing can be said for FERC, which is why we cannot afford to wait and see whether this time, they might truly weigh public benefits against public harm before giving Dominion the power to take private property for corporate gain. Too often, litigation against FERC has resulted in rulings against them, but no relief, because construction proceeds throughout the legal process.

Too much private property (96% of the route) is at stake to simply accept Dominion's propaganda as truth. Just last week, Dominion announced another round of 100 lawsuits against property owners who refused to allow surveys and showed no interest in negotiating. It seems Dominion has great confidence in the government's gift of eminent domain. Essential public resources, like clean drinking water and stable mountain slopes, are also at risk. Constructing a pipeline the size of the ACP—through terrain as challenging as the Allegheny and Blue Ridge Mountains—is dangerous and unprecedented. Yet, FERC has so far allowed Dominion to deny Freedom of Information Act requests for shape files of the route to conceal them from public inspection. To think Dominion and cohorts will be in charge of monitoring their own compliance with state erosion and sedimentation regulations!

Senator Kaine, you can help us by insisting that FERC *do their job*. They MUST:

- Prepare a "programmatic" Environmental Impact Statement that analyzes in a single document the need and effects of *all* the transmission pipelines currently proposed to run through Virginia.
- Evaluate the public benefits of *likely* end uses for the project, not just initial contracts—*Or* agree to make the *Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity* conditional on domestic use only.
- Acknowledge, and weigh accordingly, that eminent domain is being used to acquire rights of way in *every* case along the route of the ACP. Property owners are given no choice regarding the pipeline on their property, thus feel forced to negotiate for compensation.
- Put private property and public safety before corporate profits.

We would like to see a Congressional investigation into FERC's operations and decisions to evaluate their performance on these crucial measures.

Signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____
