

June 22, 2016

Ms. Stephanie Ridder, Chair
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
c/o Ms. Brett Glymph
29 Garrett St., Ste. 200
Warrenton, VA 20186

Dear Ms. Ridder:

We are writing to express our concern about Dominion Resources proposal to substitute a new conservation easement on Hayfields Farm in Highland County for portions of nine easements in the direct path of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline through Bath County and the Deerfield Valley of Augusta County.

We donated an easement to our 168 acres of Augusta County forest land adjacent to Shenandoah National Park in 2006. We purchased the land specifically to put it in an easement because it has two sinkhole ponds with special species that are remnant populations from the Ice Age. Our easement is through Virginia Outdoors Foundation. We have been careful stewards of this unique resource for many years, and we trusted that our easement would offer permanent protection.

Although we can see where VA Code Section 10.1-1704 allows for substitutions under certain circumstances, construction of the ACP does not rise to the level required by the Code for a substitution. The ACP would not benefit Bath or Augusta Counties at all; in fact, it does not fit with either county's comprehensive plan. A gas transmission line of this magnitude and its commensurate access roads, staging and storage yards, and disposal sites for earthen materials would fragment forests, permanently alter farm land, and endanger aquatic resources all along the route. Furthermore, the pipeline will decrease property values and restrict property owners' use of their own land.

In our view, Dominion has not demonstrated that the ACP is actually needed. The existing gas infrastructure is more than adequate to handle the transition of power plants in Virginia and North Carolina from coal to natural gas. The driving force behind construction of the ACP is to increase corporate profit for Dominion. That is not an adequate reason for VOF to allow Dominion's request for a substitution.

We urge VOF to enforce the Virginia statute and deny Dominion's request. We are concerned that if VOF accepts Dominion's request for a substitution, it will set a bad precedent and cause landowners like us who have donated easements or those who are considering donating easements to lose trust in VOF to permanently protect our lands.

Thank you for hearing our concerns.

Sincerely,

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