



January 10, 2017

Ms. Stephanie Ridder, Chairman
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
39 Garrett Street, Suite 200
Warrenton, VA 20186
By email: bcabibbo@vofonline.org

Dear Ms. Ridder and the VOF Board of Trustees,

I am writing again to follow up on my June 30, 2016 comments to the VOF board regarding Dominion Resources' application to VOF under Virginia Code 10.1-1704 to convert 11 properties currently protected by VOF conservation easements to accommodate construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

As a conservation easement donor, I strongly encourage the VOF board to reject the proposal.

My family protected Halfway Farm near The Plains Virginia, with one of the first conservation easements recorded by VOF in the mid-1970s. The easement covers 106 acres of forest, pasture and hayfields. In 2000, we donated a second, updated VOF easement to enhance stewardship along Little River and give up the only subdivision right remaining on our land. VOF was an enthusiastic partner in better protecting the conservation values on our farm. In 2015, VOF staff helped us add an acre to our easement from an adjacent protected property, so we might better steward a farm pond and its buffer for water quality and wildlife.

This mutual commitment to conservation between my family and the VOF is now at great risk. The threat comes from the request that VOF drop its stewardship on 11 conservation easements in Western Virginia to facilitate construction of a private, for-profit shale gas transmission line.

The Dominion Resources diversion proposal greatly exceeds in size and scale any other diversion approved by the VOF to date, by far the largest intrusion onto protected property in your history. VOF's reputation is at stake, for a project that is not supported by the local governments serving the easement landowners and that does not yet have federal approval or permits to proceed.

If the owners of the 11 protected properties in western Virginia can't trust the VOF to stand by their conservation values and steward the public trust, how could my family or future easement donors do so? Please consider the Dominion Resources proposal within this larger context and against your remarkable history, mission, purpose and the future of land protection in the Commonwealth. Please reject the proposal.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan W. Gallagher". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Megan Gallagher
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