

**Transcribed Public Comments of the
February 21, 2019 HRPDC Commission Meeting**

Mr. Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky: *Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, honorable commissioners, and fellow interested parties. I had the privilege of attending a significant rally on Tuesday evening. The Reverend Dr. William Barber and former Vice President Al Gore were the keynote speakers; although, there were many, many other people, not as well-known who had important contributions to the conversation that occurred in Buckingham County that night. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline was the item of concern. Buckingham County is where the locality of Union Hill is located. It has been cited by the project proponents, Dominion Power and Duke Energy, as the site of a compressor station. Union Hill was originally established by formerly enslaved people, and it has a long history dating back to 1865, and so there has been a great deal of opposition to this particular facility and to the pipeline itself. I recall reading a number of weeks ago a full-page ad in the Virginian Pilot, which had a list of names of many leaders from this area in business, government, and academia all advocating for the completion of the pipeline. And there is a pipeline connection that terminates here. One of the most memorable statements made at that rally was one by the former vice president. He said that with the completion of the pipeline and the burning of the gas that will flow through it, the greenhouse gas output in the Commonwealth of Virginia will increase 40 percent above preexisting levels. That should give everybody cause for concern. We have not been moving as quickly as we should to limit and reduce the amount of greenhouse gas that's going into the atmosphere. I've spoken to you before about climate change. Consequences from that continued buildup and this seems to me a massive step in the wrong direction. So I would ask you all to reflect on the consequences that this pipeline will have, not only for the region but for the planet as a whole. Thank you.*