Comment:

I write to urge the PDC Board to: 1) establish remote call-in/video conference access for the public to offer realtime comments during board meetings; 2) resume livestreaming of board meetings; and 3) seek General Assembly action to modify the VA Freedom of Information Act to allow at-will remote participation by board members themselves. As demonstrated during the COVID-19 lockdown period, we do have the technology and the skillset required to conduct regional business without all being in a single physical space. We can reduce participant travel times, greenhouse gas emissions, and competition for highway resources by changing our interaction model as suggested herein.