



September 18, 2019

RE: Support from Hampton Roads for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Members of Virginia's Congressional Delegation,

We write to you today as concerned residents of the Hampton Roads region. We are concerned because as this area's demand for reliable, affordable energy continues to grow, a project crucial to getting this energy to our market is now stuck in a morass of red tape and legal uncertainty. This is not only unnecessary, it is also potentially devastating to Hampton Roads residents and businesses that need this energy to power our homes and our workplaces. It is also a growing threat to the many military and other federal installations in this part of the Commonwealth that need sufficient, reliable energy to maintain day to day operations and meet resiliency requirements put in place by Congressional action and the Defense Department. In short, we are writing you today to ask, with great urgency, that you please act to allow for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) to finally be constructed; for the good of the region, the Commonwealth and the country.

The conversation around the ACP has been a long one. As elected officials representing Virginia voters, you well know the long and winding path that has gotten us to this point. What is not debatable are the basic facts with which we opened this letter: Virginia in general, and Hampton Roads in particular, needs greater quantities of reliable, affordable energy. The ACP would bring this energy to our area in the form of cleaner burning, domestically produced natural gas. This would be American energy for American consumers, avoiding the tricky geopolitical concerns that can arise when our nation is forced to import energy to our shores.

The economic benefits have long spoken for themselves. This project would create a total of 17,000 jobs and put more Virginians to work. In fact, the Laborers International Union of North America has already announced a partnership with the Virginia Community College System to train Virginians to work on this project - including at Paul D. Camp and Tidewater Community Colleges. The ACP would generate millions in annual property tax revenue for Virginia localities along its route: revenue that can be used to hire more teachers, improve pay for our first responders, and build critical infrastructure. It would ensure that existing businesses can continue to grow, and ensure that new businesses could be recruited to our region, knowing - with certainty - that they would have access to the energy supply that is a crucial consideration of any relocation or expansion initiative.

These economic benefits would occur concurrently with environmental progress. As is well known, natural gas produces half the carbon emissions of coal. The ACP would clean Virginia's air while growing Virginia's economy. As residents of a region that is home to natural treasures like the Great Dismal Swamp, the Chesapeake Bay and Back Bay, this move towards the utilization of cleaner energy sources is one we strongly support, and in which we have a personal investment.

Finally, we all take great pride in Hampton Roads' longstanding connection to the American military. Few regions anywhere can match our military installations, and our close relationship with the armed forces. But those facilities must be assured of access to sufficient quantities of reliable, cleaner forms of energy in order to ensure their future viability. That is exactly what the ACP will provide, if it can finally be constructed and put into operation.

The flow of natural gas to Hampton Roads is severely constricted and existing pipelines are operating at near capacity. At peak times service to large industrial and military customers has been curtailed to be sure residential customers have energy to heat and power homes. Along with curtailments, insufficient access to natural gas supplies greatly limit economic growth and our ability to successfully attract new industry and large employers to this region.

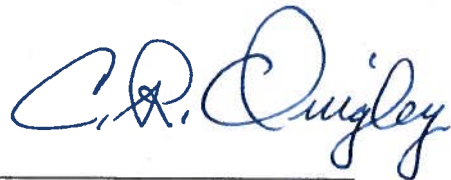
It is past time we built the infrastructure necessary to address this pressing and immediate challenge. For the sake of Hampton Roads families, workers, businesses, and the United States military facilities that call our region home, we ask that you use your positions to advocate for the completion of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, with no further delay.

With great appreciation of your service,



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Bryan K. Stephens  
President and CEO  
Hampton Roads Chamber



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Craig Quigley  
Executive Director  
HRMFFA