

December 14, 2015

Supervisor Larry Saunders
Chairman, Nelson County Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 336
Lovingston, VA 22949

Dear Chairman Saunders:

The Nelson County Board of Supervisors received a presentation on December 8th outlining the preliminary findings of Key-Log Economics' report on the potential county economic impacts of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). While I have only reviewed the PowerPoint presentation posted on the county's website, and I understand the report is not yet complete, I would like to address some of the inaccuracies and misleading information that were presented to your board. The preliminary findings of this report ignore decades of credible research and the real-world experience of communities in Virginia and elsewhere around the country.

First, there are many examples across the country demonstrating that natural gas pipelines do not negatively affect tourism, agriculture or recreational activity. For example, agricultural production, tourism and recreational activity thrive alongside vast networks of natural gas pipelines in the Northern California wine regions of Napa and Sonoma counties. Tourism generates \$1.5 billion each year in Napa County, and Sonoma County produces nearly \$1 billion annually in agricultural products – while hosting roughly 280 miles of natural gas transmission pipelines. Here in Virginia is more proof. White Hall Vineyards in Albemarle County is situated atop a major Columbia natural gas transmission pipeline. White Hall has flourished for more than 20 years as a tourist destination and producer of award-winning wine.

Second, the prevailing body of research shows there is no empirical connection between residential property values and proximity to natural gas pipelines. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission reviewed the research and independently interviewed real estate appraisers for its 2014 Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Constitution Pipeline in New York. The commission concluded that there is "no consistent information suggesting that the presence of a natural gas pipeline easement would decrease property values."

Finally, decades of experience in the region clearly demonstrate that natural gas pipelines are compatible with sustainable economic development and do not adversely impact the rural character of communities. For example, an existing Columbia pipeline has safely operated alongside farms, homes and businesses in neighboring Augusta, Rockbridge and Albemarle counties for more than 80 years. All the while, these communities have been able to preserve a sustainable mix of industrial, residential and agricultural activity without sacrificing their rural character. To illustrate these points, I have enclosed photographs of the Columbia pipeline right of way in agricultural, residential and commercial areas of Augusta County.

Earlier this year, two of the most highly respected and experienced economic consulting firms in the country performed economic impact studies for the ACP. Among other findings, these studies projected \$1.4 billion in economic activity in the state during construction, \$37.8 million in annual economic activity once the pipeline enters service and \$248 million in annual energy savings for Virginia consumers. Nelson County is also projected to receive \$8 million in annual local property tax revenue in the first 10 years of the project.

Our company is proud of the role it plays in counties and states where it does business and is certain of the positive economic contribution this project will make for communities across Virginia. The proposed ACP will lower energy costs for Virginians, provide much needed resources for local governments and help build a foundation for long-term economic growth.

Regards,

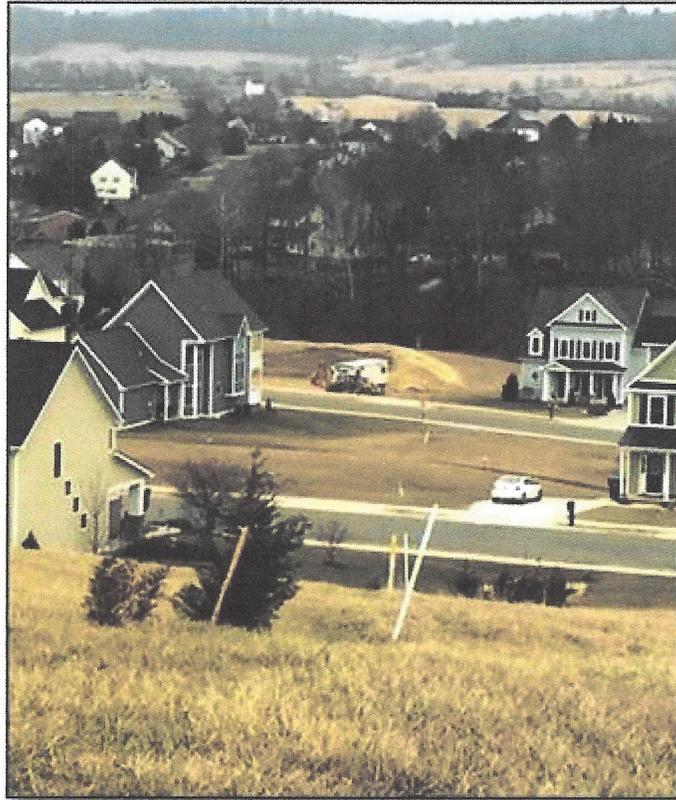
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Hartz', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Leslie Hartz
Vice President, Pipeline Construction

Columbia Pipeline Right of Way – Augusta County, Virginia
Agricultural Area



Columbia Pipeline Right of Way – Augusta County, Virginia
Residential Area



Columbia Pipeline Right of Way – Augusta County, Virginia
Commercial Area

