

Dear Nelson Supervisors,

I am writing to provide background on the list of Nelson County businesses support for a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) that was reported in this week's news (<http://augustafreepress.com/nelson-businesses-call-federal-review-proposed-pipelines/>).

As a member of the Friends of Nelson board, I coordinated the contacts with local business owners and invited them to endorse the policy statement on the ACP prepared by the Allegheny Blue Ridge Alliance. I decided to start with tourism-related businesses, thinking they would be especially concerned about the pipeline's possible negative impacts. I first contacted beverage makers (wine, beer, cider, distilled liquors), bed-and-breakfasts, and restaurants. With help from other board members, I then reached out to selected other businesses and community groups. At this point, 45 business owners have signed on, and I expect more will join as the effort continues.

Of all the business owners I contacted, not one expressed opposition to the ABRA policy statement, and not one said they were in favor of the pipeline. Many of those I spoke with made it clear that they opposed the pipeline but were concerned that expressing that opposition publicly might harm their businesses. Many thanked me for giving them and other business owners an opportunity to make their concerns known.

This project convinced me that there is widespread opposition in Nelson's business community to the pipeline and to FERC's customary one-at-a-time approach to evaluating proposals.

I urge you to push FERC to conduct a PEIS that considers all 4 pipeline proposals together and forces the gas industry to fully justify the needs and potential adverse impacts of this massive infrastructure investment.

Sincerely,

Doug Wellman
Friends of Nelson Board Member
Resident of Woods Mill