



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

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TWENTIETH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
EDUCATION
GENERAL LAWS
HEALTH, WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS

June 6, 2017

Mr. David K. Paylor, Director
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 1105
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Mr. Paylor:

I write this letter on behalf of countless citizens of the 20th House District who have reached out to me to express their concern about reports that the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has seemingly reversed their April 6 decision to require individual certifications for each waterway crossing of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. My understanding is that DEQ has instead made the decision to rely on a "blanket permit" under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 12 process.

The National Clean Water Act as well as the Code of Virginia give Virginia the clear right to conduct individual reviews to protect our own water supplies for this type of project. Many fear that the Atlantic Coast Pipeline could impact our local water supply both during construction and in the event of rupture or leak of the pipeline. A threat to the water supply is not only a threat to localities impacted by the pipeline, but also to surrounding localities. As our area is already particularly vulnerable to water pollution, I personally would put my trust in a Virginia agency to protect Virginia's interests more so than a federal government agency, and I believe many in my district feel the same.

I urge you to reconsider this decision and to strongly consider allowing DEQ to conduct their own inspections of these crossings. I appreciate your attention to this request. If I can be of any assistance regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dickie Bell", with a large, stylized initial "D".

Dickie Bell