

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

**OFFICE OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

September 19, 2017

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Chairman Neil Chatterjee
Commissioner Cheryl A. LaFleur
Commissioner Robert F. Powelson
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

**FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION**

RE: Docket No. CP15-544-000 – Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Dear Chairman Chatterjee, Commissioner LaFleur, and Commissioner Powelson,

Congratulations on reestablishing quorum at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The work you do every day is important to our nation's access to affordable and reliable energy.

As you know, your staff issued the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP)/Supply Header Pipeline (SHP) project on July 21, 2017. The completion of the EIS is an important milestone in the FERC regulatory permitting process and we respectfully request that the Commission complete its review and issue an order approving the ACP at the earliest opportunity if all impact avoidance and mitigation efforts are found satisfactory. A timely review is vital to keeping the project on schedule to deliver new natural gas supplies by 2019.

Sponsors of the ACP began the pre-filing process in October 2014 and formally applied to FERC for permission to build this 600-mile interstate natural gas transmission pipeline in September 2015. The project will provide expanded supplies of natural gas for residential and commercial heating as well as electricity generation, providing affordable energy for consumers and businesses and stimulating economic development. The Marcellus and Utica shale region needs energy infrastructure like the ACP in order to utilize its natural gas resources. Building this pipeline will help create jobs in upstream production, mid-stream transportation, and downstream manufacturing.

According to the EIS, the project's sponsors have engaged in extensive public education and participation efforts at open houses, scoping meetings, and by soliciting public comments. The July 2017 EIS also indicates that the ACP design plan has incorporated thousands of revisions to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to individual landowners and communities, sensitive ecosystems, and historic and cultural resources. The FERC staff concluded in the Final EIS that the majority of impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels as a result of the implementation of the ACP's proposed mitigation efforts and additional measures recommended in the EIS itself.

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Any delay to start initial tree clearing on schedule in November will result in significant delays and additional costs due to the loss of a construction season as tree clearing cannot occur from March to October due to the potential impacts to sensitive species. The Commission's timely attention to this vital project will ensure that the benefits to consumers and existing obligations to deliver gas are met.

We appreciate the FERC staff's diligent work in reviewing this project and urge your prompt consideration of the application, consistent with the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Sincerely,



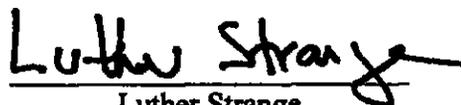
Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Richard Burr
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Luther Strange
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