County of Roanoke

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May 13, 2015

The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine
611 Jefferson Street, Suite 5B
Roanoke, VA. 24011

Dear Senator Kaine,

On behalf of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to seek your assistance in requesting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to hold an additional project scoping meeting for the Mountain Valley Pipeline Project and to extend the comment period for an additional 90 days past the current end date of June 16, 2014.

On April 28, 2014, the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution seeking an additional Scoping Meeting in Roanoke County and a 90 day extension of the public comment period in anticipation of the tremendous public interest in the project. A copy of this resolution is attached.
As expected well over 400 citizens attended the nearest FERC scoping meeting in Montgomery County on May 5, 2015. At this meeting, citizens began lining up at 3:00 PM for a chance to sign up at 6:00 PM to be allowed to speak sometime after 7:00 PM.

Given the time constraints of the meeting, many who wished to speak were either not offered the opportunity and / or discouraged from signing up to speak. Each speaker was limited to 3 minutes of comment time and approximately 3 hours were provided for speakers limiting the capacity of the meeting to approximately 60-80 speakers. Despite being discouraged from signing up by FERC staff, over 110 citizens signed up to speak.

Given the size of the Roanoke Valley and the specific impacts to Roanoke County, it is clear that there is more than enough interest in this project to warrant a Scoping Meeting in Roanoke County. It is also clear that many Roanoke County Residents who wished to participate in this meeting were discouraged from doing so by its location and limited time provided.

Changes in the pipeline routing within the County has limited the opportunity to review impacts. For these reasons, a minimum of 90 days of additional public comment is clearly warranted.
I sincerely appreciate your assistance in petitioning the FERC to host an additional public hearing in Roanoke County and to extend that comment period by 90 days. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Gates
Roanoke County Administrator

cc: The Honorable Mark R. Warner
United States Senate