



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING  
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

Governor Larry Hogan  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

December 12, 2017

Re: Deny the Section 401 Water Quality Certificate and stop the Eastern Panhandle Expansion Project

Dear Governor Hogan,

We, the undersigned Members of the D.C. Council, urge you to deny the Eastern Panhandle Expansion Project's Section 401 Water Quality Certificate, to prevent the construction of this pipeline and to protect all users of the Potomac watershed. We applaud your leadership earlier this year in signing legislation banning fracking in Maryland. And while we understand the need of residents of West Virginia, we must act to protect our shared interest in the Potomac River and the drinking water of millions of Maryland and D.C. residents.

As you know, this fracked gas pipeline would be routed directly beneath the Potomac and the C&O Canal in Hancock, Maryland. For its project TransCanada proposes utilizing horizontal directional drilling, the same technique that resulted in such massive spills of contaminated drilling fluid in Ohio that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission banned its use for several months earlier this year. Ohio's pristine protected wetlands were contaminated by more than four million gallons of spilled drilling mud, which was later confirmed to contain toxic diesel fuel.


Furthermore, the rock formations beneath the Potomac River near Hancock are comprised primarily of karst, a highly porous geology which can easily trap and transport pollutants. TransCanada has a long history of serious spills from its existing pipelines, and of underestimating the size of spills. A spill in the Potomac watershed, whether in construction or operation of the Eastern Panhandle Expansion, could have a disastrous effect on the residents of the District of Columbia, because all of our drinking water comes from the Potomac River.



For all of these reasons, we oppose the construction of this gas pipeline beneath the Potomac River, the drinking water supply for millions of residents in Maryland and D.C. The District government has taken many steps to protect our residents from the health risks of lead in their drinking water, and, given TransCanada's track record, we hope you will help us to protect our residents from this latest risk to their health and safety.


We urge you to use your authority under the Clean Water Act to reject TransCanada's Section 401 Water Quality Certificate application for the Eastern Panhandle Extension. In doing so you will be following the example of Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York, who has denied Section 401 permits to three natural gas pipelines to protect New York's residents. Please take action to protect our region from a potential disaster that could render the water of millions of people unsafe to drink.

Sincerely,



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Councilmember Charles Allen, Ward 6



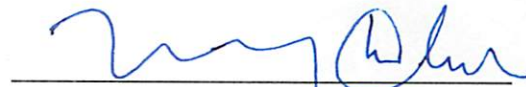
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Chairman Phil Mendelson



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Councilmember Anita Bonds, At-Large




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Councilmember Mary Cheh, Ward 3



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Councilmember David Grosso, At-Large




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Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau, Ward 1



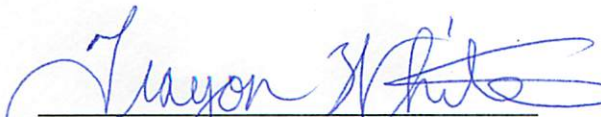
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Councilmember Elissa Silverman, At-Large



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Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr., At-Large



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Councilmember Trayon White, Sr., Ward 8