



December 20, 2017

The Honorable Larry Hogan
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

Dear Governor Hogan:

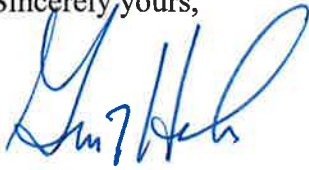
I am writing to you to share our concerns with possible water quality impacts that could accompany the construction of the Eastern Panhandle Expansion project near Hancock, Maryland. As you know, the proposed pipeline would run beneath the Potomac River, which is the source of drinking water for the 681,000 residents of the District of Columbia. In addition, we provide drinking water to more than 17.8 million people a year who visit the nation's capital. Because of those enormous stakes, DC Water is extremely wary of any construction or endeavor that has the potential to jeopardize the clear waters of the Potomac River, the sole source of water for all those people.

Let me emphasize that last point – the Potomac River is the sole source of drinking water for the nation's capital. A decision on whether to approve this permit is based on your sense of the cost and benefit of the decision. The benefit seems to be a marginally better transmission system for natural gas. The risk, although low in probability, is a catastrophic disruption of an essential and singular source of drinking water to Washington, DC.

Three years ago I warned of the dangers of fracking in national forests and all the uncertainties that surround the long-term impact of hydraulic fracturing on source water across this country. In this case, the Eastern Panhandle pipeline would carry fracked natural gas to an existing pipeline that runs east-west. The company building the pipeline, TransCanada, wants to drill a pipeline under the Potomac River and C & O Canal to transport this gas. Your decision about whether to approve a permit for this project could have serious impacts on water quality for many years to come. For that reason, I encourage you to carefully weigh the potential for lasting damage to the water supply for this region before the state awards a permit for this project. Unless there is an absolutely compelling need for this pipeline to support the public health and welfare of the national capital region, I would suggest deferring on the decision now by declining to approve, while holding your options open for the future.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this matter. As always, I am happy to discuss this issue and any other with you in more details.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. S. Hawkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "G" being particularly large and stylized.

George S. Hawkins
CEO/General Manager