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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 12, 2017

The Honorable Lawrence Hogan, Governor
State of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: TransCanada Pipeline across Potomac River

Dear Governor Hogan:

TransCanada has proposed to build a new, eight-inch diameter pipeline for fracking gas that would cut across the Potomac River in Washington County. The Potomac River Basin is one of the most prized and valuable environmental assets in our region, if not our nation. It also serves as a clean and stable source of drinking water for some Marylanders. Our interest in writing this letter is to protect the Potomac River and those who enjoy it. Please consider once again standing with our County to protect our drinking water and our natural resources.

TransCanada's proposed Eastern Panhandle Expansion Pipeline in western Maryland would carry fracked gas from Pennsylvania through Maryland and into West Virginia. The pipeline would connect with another gas pipeline proposed by Mountaineer Gas, a West Virginia company. The County has been advised that both pipelines would cross dozens of rivers and streams that flow into the Potomac River. Although Maryland's authority is centered on the TransCanada portion of this pipeline, both pipelines pose a potential risk.

Our constituents are concerned over the inherent risks with the construction of pipelines and the methods used to route them across rivers and waterways, from storm water pollution to spills during the Hydraulic Directional Drilling method called a "blowout". A blowout spill at the Potomac River crossing on the TransCanada pipeline would most likely threaten the some Washington County public water systems. Similarly, the Mountaineer Gas portion of the pipeline, poses public and private water system concerns.

The route proposed for both pipelines would also cross sensitive limestone geology called karst. Karst geology allows pollution to quickly flow through the ground and into aquifers that supply drinking water to private and public water systems. Karst geology can

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increase the risks of a blowout spill during hydraulic directional drilling and pose a long term risk to drinking water from pipeline leaks or breaks after construction. The karst geology in Western Maryland continues to be of concern, when considering pipelines and fracking.

For approval, TransCanada must obtain a permit under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from your administration. This water quality certification process is meant to ensure that the proposed pipeline will not threaten or degrade Maryland's water quality. This process provides the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) a critical opportunity to assess the potential impacts of a federal project on the state's water resources.

MDE has one year from the time TransCanada submitted its application to decide whether to approve or deny the Clean Water Act certification. Thus, MDE's deadline to act is March 15, 2018. MDE must fully understand the scope of the impacts the pipeline will have on Maryland's water quality before making a decision on the pipeline.

For these reasons, please encourage MDE and all appropriate agencies in your administration to carefully consider the 401 certification. Please postpone any approval until Maryland has all the information necessary to fully understand the impacts of Eastern Panhandle Expansion natural gas pipeline.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Terry L. Baker
Terry L. Baker, President

cc: Maryland Association of Counties