



POTOMAC
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NETWORK

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MARYLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS DENIES POTOMAC PIPELINE EASEMENT ACROSS STATE PROPERTY

A Stunning Success for Clean Water

Washington, D.C. – January 2– The Maryland Board of Public Works today rejected, by unanimous vote, an application by TransCanada for an easement over state property to construct the Potomac Pipeline.

“This is a stunning but wonderful development,” said Brent Walls, Upper Potomac Riverkeeper. “This pipeline is unnecessary and dangerous. It threatens the drinking water source for six million residents in this area, would deliver fracked natural gas not produced in Maryland and not to be used in Maryland, and would be the primary energy source for the controversial Rockwool USA insulation plant in West Virginia,” he continued.

Today’s vote comes in response to a two year campaign by Upper Potomac Riverkeeper and other environmental advocates to stop this unnecessary, risky fracked gas pipeline. Walls, Potomac Riverkeeper Network, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and local community members were supported by a wide array of public officials, including dozens of Maryland lawmakers who recently submitted a letter to Maryland State Treasurer Nancy Kopp, a member of the Board of Public Works, to urge her to vote no. Comptroller Peter Franchot was already on record as opposing the easement, but the biggest surprise came from the no vote by Governor Larry Hogan.

Although it is unclear what TransCanada’s reaction will be as a result of the denial, the pipeline will not be able to be constructed over the route originally proposed. “TransCanada can take legal action against Maryland over the vote, abandon the project, or seek an alternative route, which would require a new application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,” said Walls.

About Potomac Riverkeeper Network

Potomac Riverkeeper Network is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization with three regional Waterkeeper branches: Potomac Riverkeeper, Upper Potomac Riverkeeper, and Shenandoah Riverkeeper. Our mission is to protect the public's right to clean water in our rivers and streams. We stop pollution to promote safe drinking water, protect healthy habitats, and enhance public use and enjoyment.

For more information, visit [our website](#).

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