

# Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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April 10, 2017

The Honorable Roy Cooper  
North Carolina Office of the Governor  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

## **Re: Atlantic Coast Pipeline**

Dear Governor Cooper,

On behalf of the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League and our chapters, which include: Nash Stop the Pipeline, Cumberland County Caring Voices, Wilson County No Pipeline, No Pipeline Johnston County, and Concerned Stewards of Halifax County, I request that you, Governor Cooper, take immediate executive action halting all permitting by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and state agencies until an investigation takes place into the continually changing circumstances surrounding the proposed pipeline. Omissions, misrepresentations and minimizations by the FERC in their Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) show the need for greater scrutiny and oversight in order to protect the citizens of North Carolina. Areas of further scrutiny include but are not limited to:

- Inadequate review of stream and wetland impacts stating that the proposed pipeline would have “no significant adverse effects on the environment” while also acknowledging some damage to streams and wetlands being irreparable
- Lack of aquatic relocation plan and a conservation assessment regarding endangered species such as the Neuse River Waterdog
- Inflation of economic benefit omitting economic detriments to industries including tourism
- Inflation of environmental benefits from switching from coal to natural gas through omission of the climate impacts of methane.
- Omission of the environmental inferiority of natural gas to renewable energy such as wind and solar

- Omission of Environmental Justice issues in communities including Wilson, Robeson Northampton and Halifax Counties in which the proposed route predominantly impacts African American and Native American households.
- Omission of substantial overview of the cumulative climate impacts from the ongoing extraction, compression, and export of natural gas locked in with the construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline
- The withholding of thousands of pages of documents by Dominion, Duke Energy and their partners until after the release of the FERC's DEIS

The people of North Carolina are depending on you, Governor Cooper to protect their families, homes and farms. We urge you to act now.

Yours Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louis A. Zeller". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a horizontal line.

Louis Zeller  
Executive Director, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

Cc: Michael Regan, Secretary North Carolina Department of Natural Resources