

PO Box 392 Richmond, VA 23218 Phone: (804) 322-9787

February 8, 2016

The Honorable Terence McAuliffe Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia Patrick Henry Building 1111 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Support of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Dear Governor McAuliffe:

We write on behalf of EnergySure, a broad group of businesses, labor organizations, trade associations and regional economic development interests, to express our appreciation for your steadfast support for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. We see the proposed 564-mile natural gas line as being extremely important in promoting economic development, creating good-paying jobs, saving consumers and businesses many millions of dollars in energy costs, and promoting cleaner air in Virginia and North Carolina.

As you may know, the demand for clean-burning American natural gas as a fuel for power generation in Virginia and North Carolina is projected to more than triple over the next 20 years. To meet federal mandates to reduce carbon emissions, older coal-fired power plants are scheduled for retirement – reducing capacity to generate electricity and creating an immediate need.

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is expected to generate significant economic benefits across the three-state region, including more than 17,000 jobs, \$2.7 billion in economic activity and \$4.2 million in average annual local tax revenue during construction. <u>In Virginia alone, construction will support 8,800 jobs and result in \$1.4 billion in economic activity.</u>

Once in operation, the pipeline is expected to result in almost \$38 million in economic activity, support 1,300 jobs and, by 2022, generate \$10.4 million in local tax revenue in 13 counties and cities along the route.

Growing a new Virginia economy requires a reliable and affordable source of energy. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline will give Virginia a competitive advantage when luring large manufacturing facilities and will open the door to bringing new industry and jobs to the Commonwealth. The project is economically sound and environmentally safe – a combination that stands to benefit all Virginians.

On behalf of the 189 organizations and businesses of the EnergySure coalition, we say thank you for your leadership to strengthen our state's economy and your commitment to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Sincerely,



































































Smithfield.





































CC: Members, Senate of Virginia Members, Virginia House of Delegates