



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

DANIEL J FOREST LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 25, 2015

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Ms. Bose:

As the Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina, I write in support of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (PF15-6-000). One of my duties as Lieutenant Governor is to chair the North Carolina Energy Policy Council (EPC). The EPC, which is the central energy policy planning body of the state, strongly endorses the proposed natural gas interstate pipeline. We believe that access to new gas markets is essential to North Carolina's economic growth and assures that North Carolina's homes and businesses have clean, reliable, and reasonably-priced energy in the coming years.

Reliable access to natural gas is a primary consideration for many businesses, particularly industrial operations, when they decide where to locate new facilities or expand existing ones. With the pipeline in place, businesses will have a high level of confidence that they can reliably access the gas they need at reasonable prices. The pipeline network serving North Carolina, and in fact much of the Southeast, can be subject to constraints and bottlenecks during periods of extreme demand, as demonstrated during the "polar vortex" of early 2014. During January of that year, prices at one supply point in the Southeast soared to about twenty times their normal levels. The proposed direct link to the abundant source of clean, affordable natural gas in Marcellus and Utica shale basins would lessen supply constraints, help mitigate price spikes, and create valuable job opportunities in construction, maintenance, and operations.

Much of the gas supply from the Pipeline will be used to support North Carolina's shift away from aging coal-fired power plants to natural gas combustion units for electricity generation. Recent additions of gas-fired power plants have contributed to substantial air quality improvements in the State, and North Carolinians breathe cleaner air today than any time in more than 25 years. Sole reliance on the Transco pipeline network limits affordable gas-fired power generation expansion, but direct access to the gas-producing regions of West Virginia will make this expansion economical and reliable.

We have confidence this project can be built and operated safely and in a manner that protects the environment. Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas are members of the partnership proposing to build the pipeline. Both companies have excellent safety records in natural gas operations and have provided reliable energy service to North Carolinians for many years. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline will help them continue to offer that same high level of service in the future. I encourage you to approve the Pipeline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Forest", written over a horizontal line.

Dan Forest
Lieutenant Governor

cc: Jeff Wright, Director, Office of Energy Projects