

Endorsements of the VRP



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minutes ago)

Jeff Staples

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to district18,
district16,
DelLBagby,
DelEBrewer,
DelCJenkins,
DelCHayes
DelBKnight

Dear Virginia Senators and Delegates,

Our coalition group, SavetheDismal.com, has come together to help maintain the ecological integrity that is being endangered in the Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge. Our concerns include the encroachment on the Wildlife Refuge and the surrounding areas, caused by residential, business and industrial projects. These projects could and should find homes in lands that have already been exploited by past projects. Many of these areas are now abandoned, unused or underused. These areas could much easier be reclaimed for the as of now proposed projects that threaten the Dismal Swamp. In these reclaimable areas, infrastructure is already there. Water, sewer, energy utilities, roads and a much overlooked resource, mass transit. A recent study by SavetheDismal.com, that was presented to Chesapeake City Council in March of 2022, shows that unemployment is twice as high in the areas that could be reclaimed as those that would be impacted by these projects planned next too, or in close proximity to the Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge.

Our most immediate concern for today's communication is the so-called, proposed Virginia Reliability Project. We have reached out to the public, via this petition to help amplify our collective voices. We are announcing our opposition to that proposed project. We ask now that you have been addressed, please reconsider the merits of the VRP and withdraw your previously announced support. Please read the petition below:

SavetheDismal.com

Rescind Endorsements of the Virginia Reliability Project

The proposed so-called "Virginia Reliability Project" Pipeline is an unnecessary threat to people and the environment. The plans call for the replacement of an existing 12 inch gas pipeline that has served Hampton Roads for more than 50 years. The new pipeline would be a 24 inch, interstate grade, high pressure hazard. There has been no substantiated proof of need for the exponentially increased amount of added gas that this new pipeline would carry.

There is presently, being constructed, a massive offshore wind project as well as a steadily increasing amount of solar energy being bought online in the Hampton Roads market. New technologies such as these do not carry an explosive threat and pose much less of a threat to air and water quality. These clean energy additions will also satisfy Hampton Roads energy demand and will compliment the current fossil fuel infrastructure, already in place.

It seems that many of our state legislators including Senators Louise Lucas and Joseph Morrissey, Delegates Lamont Bagby, Emily Brewer, Clinton Jenkins, Cliff Hayes and Barry Knight, have been approached by lobbyist from TransCanada Energy and not given an accurate account of the rise of renewable energy and the true picture of consumer demand for the present and future energy requirements for the Hampton Roads area. Some of our legislators have therefore made uninformed choices and have previously chosen to support the so-called "Virginia Reliability Project."

By signing this petition, we, the signers, are asking these legislators to rescind their endorsements of the "Virginia Reliability Project."

240 Petition Signers

<https://change.org/stopthevrp>

We thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact us and please let us know of your decision as to whether or not to rescind your support for the so-called "Virginia Reliability Project."

Thank you, Legislators of Virginia.

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