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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I wish to encourage you to approve the construction of the approximately 3.5 miles of buried pipe through the Jefferson National Forest. I've hiked in the Jefferson National Forest for the past 15 years and my favorite views are along utility right of ways. This is because these are the some of the only areas that showcase how beautiful this part of Virginia is. Also, if you want to find wildlife then utility right of ways are where you want to be. I believe you have studied this enough and with proper oversight this pipeline can be constructed and restored satisfactorily. But this is not the only reason.

My 72 year old mother lives in Virginia and does not have access to affordable and clean natural gas in her area. The local distribution company says that without this pipeline they are unable to expand to offer her service. She has also said that new companies are willing to relocate to her town and existing companies would like to expand, but without basic utilities such as affordable natural gas availability they choose elsewhere. The result is chronic underemployment which affects all aspects of the economic prosperity of her town, from government agencies (police and fire protection), to tax revenue for schools, and to funds for recreational opportunities such as parks and playgrounds.

So not only will Virginians benefit from this pipeline, but so will hikers visiting the Jefferson National Forest as well as natural wildlife. Please approve this pipeline.