



# MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF BOONSBORO

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December 4, 2017

Governor Larry Hogan  
100 State Circle Annapolis  
Maryland 21401-1925

Honorable Governor Hogan:

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to deny approval of the 401 Water Quality Certification application by TransCanada for a natural gas pipeline. It will go under the Potomac River and C&O Canal, passing directly through Washington County.

Thank you for banning fracking in Maryland. This was a huge victory for Maryland. Maryland residents and America's River—the Potomac—are now being threatened by fracked gas in the form of the proposed TransCanada Pipeline between Pennsylvania and West Virginia under the Potomac River in Washington County. Maryland has jurisdiction over the Potomac River and will not benefit from this pipeline in any way.

The Potomac River Basin serves as a clean and stable source of drinking water for millions of Marylanders as well as being one of the most prized and valuable environmental and recreational assets in our region.

There are inherent public health and environmental dangers with the construction of pipelines. As the saying goes, "It's not 'IF' a failure will occur, but 'WHEN.'" History shows that this is inevitable. The sensitive karst geology in Western Maryland can easily and quickly transmit pollution great distances. So the threat to Maryland's water is not just during the construction phase, but for the life of the pipeline.

To move forward, TransCanada needs a permit under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from your administration. This water quality certification process is meant to ensure that the proposed pipeline will not threaten or degrade Maryland's water quality. As of now, TransCanada has NOT provided sufficient information about the entire pipeline project to state or federal regulators.

For these reasons, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Boonsboro ask that you deny the 401 certification until Maryland has all the information it needs to fully understand the impacts of this natural gas pipeline.

Sincerely,

Howard Long, Mayor

Town of Boonsboro