

## The Environment

The Augusta County Democratic Committee believes living in an environment typified by clean air and clean water is a right of all Americans. Yet this most basic of human rights is under constant attack. The importance of living in a clean and healthy environment cannot be overstated – it represents continuation of human life on earth as we know it. This is true whether speaking of Augusta County, nationally, or internationally. It is unconscionable to leave our children a planet that has been so profoundly damaged and to stand idly by as the damage continues.

- We oppose construction of the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley Pipelines.
- To preserve our natural resources, we must support government efforts to keep our water, air, and land clean and free of pollution. The EPA must be strengthened not crippled.
- Locally, we must provide economic assistance and volunteer efforts to fence all water tributaries in Augusta County and provide landscaped (riparian) stream buffering from livestock encroachment and provide our farmers with replacement water structures for their water source.
- To preserve our natural resources, we support a transition to clean energy as quickly as possible. We must act now to wean ourselves from fossil fuels.
- We oppose construction of the Keystone Pipeline.
- We believe catastrophic climate change is real, is happening now, and will become the defining challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As such, we oppose the US withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement.
- We believe catastrophic climate change is a national security issue and must be addressed with that level of seriousness:
  - As our coastal areas begin to flood impacting military bases
  - As our coastal areas begin to flood displacing millions of Americans
  - As extreme weather cycles impact not only our local and national farming communities but also the world wide food supply
  - As the economy begins to suffer gross negative impact
- This is the only planet we have. It is our duty to be responsible stewards of our natural resources and our public lands and waterways.
- We believe we can take this opportunity to establish new businesses and create new jobs to solve these environmental problems while assisting

workers in displaced industries (coal mining for example) through retraining.

- We oppose opening up our public lands and coastlines to drilling.
- We oppose fracking.
- We support government assistance programs to aid our farmers in complying with environmental regulations while minimizing economic impact, particularly on family farms.