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BEFORE THE

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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IN THE MATTER OF: : Project No.  
SOUTHEAST MARKET PIPELINE PROJECT : CP14-554-000  
: CP15-16-000  
: CP15-17-000

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Dunnellon Middle School  
21005 Chestnut Street  
Dunnellon, Florida 34431

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

The above-entitled matter came on for Scoping Meeting, pursuant to notice, at 6:00 p.m., John Peconom, the moderator.



1           In Florida, Sabal Trail and Florida Southeast  
2 Connection propose to construct and operate approximately  
3 358 miles of pipeline across Hamilton, Suwanee, Gilchrist,  
4 Alachua, Levy, Marion, Sumter, Lake, Osceola, Citrus,  
5 Orange, Polk, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, and Martin Counties.  
6 Additionally, Sabal Trail proposed to construct three new  
7 natural gas compressor stations in Suwanee, Marion and  
8 Osceola Counties.

9           Additional information about the SMP project and  
10 its components can be found on FERC's website at  
11 [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov). The FERC's eLibrary is the Commission's  
12 administrative record and contains copies of the three  
13 applications and all supplemental information provided.  
14 eLibrary which can be accessed from the FERC website also  
15 contains copies of our correspondence with other federal and  
16 state agencies, comment letters submitted by affected  
17 landowners and concerned citizens, and our requests to the  
18 applicants for additional environmental information.

19           The National Environmental Policy Act requires  
20 the Commission to conduct an environmental review of all  
21 interstate natural gas transmission pipeline projects. The  
22 SMP Draft EIS which was prepared in cooperation with the US  
23 Army Corps of Engineers and issued on September 4, 2015 and  
24 sent to over 6,000 individuals and parties and was prepared  
25 in response to the applications filed by the three companies

1 in the fall of 2014.

2           The Commission staff worked for over 10 months to  
3 prepare this Draft EIS. These ten months are in addition to  
4 the year spent working in the pre-filing process with  
5 federal, state and local agencies, as well as other  
6 concerned individuals and entities. In total, almost 2  
7 years have been spent on this environmental review.

8           An environmental impact statement is an  
9 informational document, it is not a decisional document -- a  
10 decision about this project has not been made, the EIS'  
11 purpose is to inform the Commission about the potential  
12 impacts on the human and natural environments that could  
13 result from construction and operation of the project.

14           An environmental impact statement describes the  
15 environment as it exists today, the potential impacts on the  
16 environment, assesses and compares alternatives and includes  
17 staff's recommendations to avoid, minimize and mitigate  
18 potential impacts.

19           Specifically, the Draft EIS which there are  
20 copies of in the back, includes an executive summary, an  
21 introduction which describes the purpose and need of the  
22 project as well as the purpose and scope of the  
23 environmental review, descriptions of the proposed actions  
24 including proposed facilities, land requirements,  
25 construction procedures, and environmental analysis that

1 covers geology, karst, soils, water resources, groundwater,  
2 aquifers, wetlands, vegetation, wildlife, aquifers,  
3 fisheries and water resources, threatened and endangered  
4 species, land use and visual resources, socioeconomics,  
5 impacts on property values, cultural resources, air quality  
6 and noise, compressor station emissions, reliability and  
7 safety, pipeline integrity, safety standards, and several  
8 other resources.

9           This Draft EIS also looks into the cumulative  
10 impacts analysis, alternatives discussion and as I said  
11 before the staff's conclusions and recommendations. This  
12 Draft EIS also has 14 appendices that include maps, site  
13 specific drawings, construction of plan references. This  
14 Draft EIS summarizes our comprehensive environmental review  
15 of the project and includes our conclusions and  
16 recommendations.

17           As I said before the Commission issued an SMP  
18 Draft EIS September 4, 2015. This began a 45-day comment  
19 period which closes on October 26th. In addition to the  
20 comments we will receive later this evening, I expect the  
21 Commission will receive numerous written and electronic  
22 comments. Comments received, whether they be verbal,  
23 written or electronic are treated the same. There is no  
24 preference given to one type of comment over another.

25           All comments received will be addressed in the

1 Final environmental impact statements. Comments may result  
2 in additional analysis, changes and revisions to the EIS.

3 As a reminder, comments can be provided verbally  
4 tonight, in written form and submitted through the U.S. mail  
5 to the Secretary of the Commission or electronically via the  
6 Commission's website, [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov). For your convenience we  
7 have also provided comment forms in the back that you may  
8 fill out and leave with us tonight.

9 After receiving comments on the Draft  
10 environmental impact statement, we will prepare a Final  
11 environmental impact statement. Ultimately, the FERC  
12 Commissioners will determine whether or not to approve the  
13 SMP Project. This decision will be made after a careful  
14 review of the applications, the Final environmental impact  
15 statement and will consider all public comments submitted on  
16 the project.

17 The meeting notice states that we would be  
18 enforcing a three minute time limit however given the number  
19 of individuals, about 10, who have expressed an interest in  
20 speaking tonight I am going to waive that time limit. So  
21 before we hear from our first speaker, will everyone please  
22 silence their cell phones? When you come up please speak  
23 clearly, remember to spell your first and last names for the  
24 record.

25 I recognize that everyone is taking time out of

1 their lives to be here tonight and I appreciate the  
2 commitment and the effort that you are making so I want to  
3 make sure that everyone has a chance to speak. I will ask  
4 you to be respectful of all speakers.

5 Your comments are being recorded and will be  
6 entered into the Commission's administrative record. If you  
7 would like to have a written copy of tonight's meeting speak  
8 to our reporter after the meeting or you can download a copy  
9 when it is placed into the record.

10 With that then we will call our first speaker Mr.  
11 Nolan Hanratty.

12 MR. HANRATTY: Hi my name is Joseph Hanratty,  
13 J-o-s-e-p-h H-a-n-r-a-t-t-y. I am here with Nolan Galloway.

14 N-o-l-a-n G-a-l-l-o-w-a-y. We are here request  
15 FERC intervention and to request a line adjustment on the  
16 Galloway property which is located in Gilchrist County. It  
17 can be found on the FERC page B161 and the FERC Volume of  
18 the preliminary draft environmental statement.

19 The Galloway property is a long leaflet forest, I  
20 would like to have Nolan describe the nature of the Galloway  
21 property and I would also like to give you handouts  
22 regarding that.

23 MR. GALLOWAY: Good evening, Nolan Galloway, I've  
24 been on the property for about 4 generations and what I am  
25 generally alluding to is that we are along the front of

1 habitat, it is a fire dominated community. I burn it on a  
2 bilateral pattern -- it kind of looks like a checkerboard,  
3 this block this year, that block next year and it's an  
4 integral part to the management of the property.

5           Obviously if we are running a natural gas  
6 pipeline across the property a couple of things happen, I  
7 would imagine they don't want a fire going over that  
8 pipeline and it just seems logical I wouldn't want to run a  
9 fire, but the trend set the pipeline is proposed to cut  
10 across our property bifurcates it in a manner which that  
11 creates problems for me going forward and I will not be able  
12 to name that port from the forest in this current status so  
13 I have suggested that are property stay on our property and  
14 kind of hug our property line, we would eliminate them  
15 having to deal with multiple landowners and just need less  
16 for a longer period of time, we would promote this kind of  
17 growth for our country.

18           But at the same time we have to properly preserve  
19 -- which is a really greater habitat. We are the Florida  
20 forever program, we are not even on that list. I recently  
21 applied for the tier 1 with the Florida rural protection  
22 program and they are going to begin negotiating with us for  
23 a conservation easement on the entire property.

24           Again my family is pro-development, we are for  
25 the future of this country, more importantly a part of, but

1 we also want to preserve this land and we feel like we would  
2 like to have someone say how does this thing look if they  
3 are going to do this course, what is it going to build a  
4 fence? Do I have to give it a buffer when I burn? No one  
5 has talked to me, no one sat down and said this is how it  
6 has to be, you are going to put up with it.

7 I understand that this isn't cast in stone yet  
8 but I would like to have a face to face and be a part of it  
9 and finally resolve something that works for us and works  
10 for them.

11 Cane and Ranch is one of the largest and  
12 privately held long-leaf pine watergrass tracks in Florida.  
13 The property represents a tier 1 project and the Florida  
14 Department of Agriculture has shown consumer services  
15 traveling rural land protection program and as he indicated  
16 it's on the improvement project priority list.

17 The proposed Greenfield crossing will not only  
18 impact the vicinity of Grove's Pipeline but it will affect  
19 hundreds of adjoining acres of protected growth by  
20 preventing necessary controlled burnings.

21 We also have a letter from the adjoining property  
22 owner and that would be the George Robinson Livingston  
23 Trust. The line that is proposed for Sabal Trail is the  
24 white line as you can see here going through the Galloway  
25 property and the Robinson property. The Robinson property

1 has a tall, 11 foot high gate fence that they have around  
2 their property. They have a large gate that they maintain  
3 on there.

4 By routing it around the Galloway property and  
5 keeping the pipeline on the Galloway property until you get  
6 to the powerline here then it eliminates one of the property  
7 owner's, it eliminates cutting through that fenced area of  
8 construction, eliminates how you deal with the wildlife that  
9 is on that property and it also enables Nolan and his family  
10 to maintain this pristine Cane and Ranch property in its  
11 natural habitat.

12 We think it's a nominal request for purposes of  
13 preserving the natural habitat and it also reduces the  
14 overall acquisitions of Barclay Pipe 1.

15 Any questions from anyone, thank you.

16 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, thank you Mr. Galloway.  
17 Our next speaker is Mr. Hanratty again on behalf of Arbor  
18 Springs property.

19 MR. HANRATTY: Thank you again Joe Hanratty,  
20 J-o-e H-a-n-r-a-t-t-y. And I do have two handouts for the  
21 Arbor Springs property as well. The Arbor Springs property  
22 is located in Marion County and it is shown on sheet B186  
23 Volume 1 of the Draft EIS statement. It is located  
24 approximately at this location here before you get to the  
25 compressor station number 6.

1           A diagram of the property looks like this,  
2 there's about 600 acres and this is State Road 200  
3 diagonally going in front of the property. The property is  
4 zoned it's a hamlet development and development is located  
5 on there it's a development called Bellago.

6           Bellago had part of its right-of-way acquired in  
7 2002 by the Department of Transportation for State Road 200  
8 project. I represented the property owners and attached to  
9 your statement is a copy of the final judgment that was  
10 entered in that case. The final judgment specifies the  
11 construction plans and construction for the property to be  
12 acquired.

13           It did not include a 36 inch pipeline and 50 foot  
14 easement. If you look at the what is Exhibit C to what I  
15 provided you in the construction plan sheet near the  
16 vicinity of the Bellago property. Because this was done  
17 back in 2002 the Department of Transportation was actually  
18 trying to go metric and so the diagram reflects the metric  
19 distances for that construction.

20           You will see -- we are looking at this diagram I  
21 put up in red that the right-of-way in Bellago is 214.83  
22 feet which is 65.48 meters. The distance between the  
23 right-of-way and the property line in front of Bellago is  
24 59.5 feet or 18 meters. Back I guess when they were doing  
25 metric rogue profits, they needed to include bicycle paths,

1 so these that are required for the DOT projects nowadays are  
2 improving the map.

3           The problem that the folks at Ballago had is that  
4 that is the only entrance to their property so as the 120  
5 homes yet developed all of those who live there are going to  
6 have to cross over that pipeline at their entrance way and  
7 with associated sort of like horse farms, once the homes are  
8 built there included in the package that I gave you a  
9 picture of some of the homes that are in there, they are  
10 very expensive homes. They are not nominal priced homes and  
11 we anticipate at build-down we could have over 3,000 cars a  
12 day going through the entrance way when it is ultimately  
13 built out.

14           Originally a spot -- but the pipeline was coming  
15 to the west of the property that is what is was when we had  
16 the scoping meetings and we would have no objection to  
17 re-routing along the west, we would allow our property to be  
18 used for the pipeline in that vicinity. However, we object  
19 to it being put in the right-of-way.

20           Also that the pipeline does locate within the  
21 right-of-way then they would actually -- we anticipate we  
22 would litigate with the Department of Transportation because  
23 they would bring it and the final judgment between the  
24 Department of Transportation and my clients do not provide  
25 for a pipeline in that area.

1                   So we would request that FERC consider  
2   relocating, coming back through the southwest water  
3   management property and then along our west property line  
4   and then towards the compressor stations.

5                   MR. PECONOM: Thank you Mr. Hanratty. Our next  
6   speaker is Mr. John Sherman.

7                   MR. SHERMAN: Good evening John Sherman, J-o-h-n  
8   S-h-e-r-m-a-n. I am with Teamsters Local 769 a business  
9   agent, I am also a Trustee on the Trustee's National  
10  Pipeline and Trust Fund and Trainer Fund. I just want to  
11  take a couple of minutes to say that this is a perfect  
12  opportunity for the state and workers who live in the area  
13  where the project will be built. Many jobs will be creating  
14  paying high wages and providing health insurance and pension  
15  benefits.

16                   These workers will spend a good portion of these  
17  wages in the local businesses such as restaurants, stores  
18  and gas stations. This means the local communities will  
19  directly benefit from the economic opportunities created by  
20  this project. In addition we are committed to building this  
21  pipeline project with well-trained skilled labor to insure  
22  safe and qualified teams to workers.

23                   Pipelines bring in expensive natural gas in  
24  efficient and environmental friendly manner leading to  
25  cheaper utility bills for our households and local

1 businesses. A Drexel University study released February 9,  
2 2015 said Penn East Pipeline Project, a pipeline project  
3 smaller in size than this one, it stated that it brought in  
4 more than 17 million dollars in additional personal income  
5 tax.

6 Besides -- the right construction job workers  
7 spend money in the local areas as previously stated however  
8 local businesses will gain by selling supplies and materials  
9 needed for the project and services and contractors  
10 equipment.

11 The majority of pipeline workers for this project  
12 will be from local communities, our contractor or pipeline  
13 contractor mandates that at least half of the pipeline  
14 workers have to be local people. Most times we get a higher  
15 percentage of the workers locally.

16 To help insure at least half of the workers are  
17 from the local area we will provide free training to our  
18 local members, this will include the Department of  
19 Transportation, CSA regulation that stands for compliance,  
20 safety and accountability. A classroom safety course,  
21 reviewing the CSA regulations and defensive driving will be  
22 scheduled prior to the start of the project.

23 Prior to the start of the project we will bring  
24 our skilled trained units to provide hands on training to  
25 our local members on equipment which they will be driving.

1 This way the work on the pipeline project will be done in  
2 the same efficient and highly-skilled manner, this project  
3 is good for the state and local community and our members  
4 and we urge that the project proceed on schedule, thank you.

5 MR. PECONOM: Thank you Mr. Sherman. Our next  
6 speaker is Janet Barrow.

7 MS. BARROW: Okay can you hear me. Okay I am  
8 Janet Barrow, my address -- oh I'll spell it, J-a-n-e-t  
9 B-a-r-r-o-w. I live at 11791 Southwest 164th Avenue Road,  
10 Dunnellon. I have lived on the property there where my  
11 husband has been employed for about 32 years. He's the  
12 manager of the Pruett family's ranch, a large cattle ranch  
13 that encompasses 9 to 10,000 acres of land near Dunnellon.

14 The north border of the ranch is Highway 40, the  
15 western border is west of 108th Avenue Road, High School  
16 Road. The eastern border is 148th Avenue and the southern  
17 border is basically Marjorie Harris Park Greenway with some  
18 other outlying parcels between the greenway and  
19 Withlacoochee River.

20 Until the mid-1990's a four mile section of what  
21 is now Greenway there was 6,000 acres of what is now  
22 Halpastanaky Ranch -- preserve was part of my ranch. Now I  
23 just want to interject that I am standing for myself, not  
24 looking out for the ranch or anything else or the owners,  
25 but I have been a long-time resident here and I have

1 observed this land for a long time. If Sabal Trail Gas  
2 Pipeline that's approved, 8 to 9 miles of the route, the  
3 main 36 inch high pressure pipeline will go through Flying  
4 Key Ranch, this is an active cattle ranch and it is a haven  
5 for a lot of wildlife including many state and listed  
6 species, state and federal listed species.

7 I notified FERC of the Sabal Trail wildlife on  
8 this ranch and in the area several times over the past year  
9 and I was assured that the appropriate environmental surveys  
10 would be done. After watching the survey process and  
11 reading some of the filings, I am not confident in the DEIS  
12 or the approval process.

13 I looked for a copy of the Sabal Trail's  
14 temporary Draft Environmental Impact Statement at the  
15 Dunnellon library last week and they didn't have one.  
16 According to Sabal Trail copies will be made available to  
17 all of the libraries in the affected areas. Unless the  
18 September DEIS somehow lost the plan, Sabal Trail has failed  
19 to meet its promises to FERC and the local citizens, not a  
20 surprise to me.

21 Since I could not find a hard copy or even a disc  
22 copy of the DEIS at the library I went back to my computer  
23 on the FERC website, sometimes that print is a little small  
24 and on all of our copy or a larger screen -- anyway wading  
25 through the extraneous information that has been cut and

1 pasted into the DEIS I tried to find the actual survey  
2 results it was tedious -- in fact I could not find the  
3 actual survey data.

4 I am formally requesting copies of all Sabal  
5 Trail wildlife, plant, geologic and cultural survey data for  
6 any proposed pipeline route and survey area in Marion County  
7 including data from the proposed main line, the compressor  
8 station -- the Dunnellon compressor station.

9 Citrus County Line and the Withlacoochee River  
10 crossings -- too many times I read in the biological  
11 assessment that in an environmental survey it was not  
12 directly observed or Sabal Trail did not conduct species  
13 specific surveys for a particular animals or some other such  
14 language. I would like to compare the data collected for  
15 Marion County let's see -- for which this September DEIS was  
16 prepared to a 42 plus years of observation of the wildlife,  
17 plant life, soils of sink holes, rural and water level  
18 changes for this area particularly Flying Key Ranch.

19 And the proposed compressor station and the  
20 Citrus County line route 2 Withlacoochee River and crossing.  
21 Sabal Trail is still conducting wildlife surveys even though  
22 the DEIS was submitted to FERC one month ago. In fact on  
23 Friday, October 2, 2015 they were conducting a gopher  
24 tortoise survey on my Key Ranch. Predictably the survey  
25 crew never past gates 101 and left two gates incredibly

1 latched, one which caused a problem when moving a calf back  
2 to its mom, it went through a wire fence and we had to go  
3 all the way around to get it back where it was supposed to  
4 go.

5           And two of our gates were latched, to each other  
6 rather than a fence post so the cows could have gotten out  
7 of their pasture, this is not the first time Sabal Trail  
8 people shut gates incorrectly and it won't be the last.  
9 This is an on-going problem and power line personnel. Why  
10 do I have little faith in this survey and the review  
11 process? During Friday's gopher tortoise survey, the survey  
12 crew drove right past an active gopher hole in the pipeline  
13 route nearly running over it and it never stopped.

14           20 minutes later photos were taken which I have  
15 them here along with some other wildlife photos from my  
16 ranch, not by the survey crew members but someone else, but  
17 that gopher hole and the gopher tortoise and the gopher frog  
18 residence fizzled -- they had been sitting together at the  
19 entrance to the hole just before the photos were taken.

20           The photo of the gopher frog is not the clearest  
21 but on magnification there's enough pattern and size and  
22 shape characteristics that I believe that to be a gopher  
23 frog. I walked the transit of my own making that crosses  
24 the pipeline route and there were 11 gopher tortoise holes  
25 in this one 820 foot path. The pipeline will go right

1 through there. This happy gopher community and many others  
2 will be destroyed if this Sabal Trail Pipeline gets  
3 approved. Surviving gopher tortoises will be moved to a  
4 gopher ghetto somewhere else and the commensurate species  
5 like gopher frogs and indigo snakes will be rendered  
6 homeless or dead.

7 We do have gopher frogs and indigo snakes on this  
8 ranch and I have a few photos of ranch wildlife with me as I  
9 said including one of a black snake trying to make a meal of  
10 a gopher frog but the gopher frog was able to escape the  
11 snake's mouth when we stopped the truck to look at the  
12 scene.

13 It was taken within a mile of the proposed  
14 pipeline route, the gopher frog travel up to three miles to  
15 breed in the femoral ponds. There are a lot of the femoral  
16 ponds scattered throughout the north side of ranch and a  
17 happy existence of the femoral and estuary ponds on the  
18 south side of the ranch. In fact that whole south side, you  
19 are aware it crosses 484 to the river is full of wetlands  
20 and ponds it's unsuitable for pipeline construction in my  
21 opinion.

22 We have a lot of Sherman's fox squirrels on the  
23 ranch too. My guess is they were supposed to be looking for  
24 fox squirrels when they were doing the gopher survey. It  
25 kind of amuses me because one is down and the other is up in

1 the trees. Anyway, some live along the pipeline route and  
2 they nest in the trees that Sabal Trail would have to remove  
3 for the pipeline so how many fox squirrels or nests did they  
4 report on their survey? I want the data.

5 Sabal Trail seems to know about one burrowing  
6 owls' nest on the north side of the ranch but there are  
7 others in the proposed route that I believe that their  
8 survey crew has missed. Two days ago my husband and I rode  
9 through the north side of the ranch checking the cows and we  
10 say ten burrowing owls without even looking for them and  
11 that's not unusual as we always see listed species when we  
12 drive through the ranch unless the weather is really bad.

13 We also saw four kestrels and three sand hill  
14 cranes and a lot of other wildlife. That is just typical  
15 without even looking for them. I say that I trip over the  
16 wildlife out there, the listed species. As for the sand  
17 hill cranes, there are multiple breeding pairs of sand hill  
18 cranes on the ranch on Sabal Trail's proposed pipeline route  
19 and I have to speak up for them.

20 As long as we have been there, almost 32 years I  
21 have been watching families raise chicks on the south side  
22 of the ranch, that's the land south of 484, the wetlands  
23 that I was referring to. This year at least two pairs  
24 raised young along the pipeline route at least. Since I saw  
25 the very young chicks along the proposed route and they

1 aren't going to fly for months I can only assume that the  
2 nests were back in those ponds, those wetlands that Sabal  
3 Trail intends to violate with their pipeline.

4           Another Sabal Trail spotted one adult sand hill  
5 crane along this section of the route once but did they ever  
6 spot the other ones? I have plenty of sightings recorded on  
7 a similes App from the past year. Now I have seen here sand  
8 hill cranes so frequently I don't record them much of the  
9 time. I am using the similes App as a hobby and as my own  
10 personal citizen science so I can learn more about the birds  
11 here.

12           I have planted some good data on the burrowing  
13 owls and bald eagles, the sand hill cranes, locations where  
14 their young are born and when they fledge. That one bald  
15 eagle nest has been there for over a decade and it was in  
16 another tree nearby before that and there is one of probably  
17 their off-spring looking at another pine tree near the route  
18 right now.

19           I am learning about -- I'm also collecting  
20 sightings about the southeast where kestrels and swallow  
21 trail pikes and all other kinds of wakening birds as well as  
22 other kinds of birds and there are a lot. A lot of -- some  
23 they are looking for and some that are not.

24           Also I am informing anyone that reads or hears  
25 this that there is a pair of barn owls and a pair of

1 Mississippi pikes that nest along the pipeline route on the  
2 south side of the ranch and that's the information that the  
3 federal and state agencies, they are supposed to be  
4 protecting them.

5           They are real close to that pipeline route if not  
6 on it. I have lived through flooding and drought on this  
7 land and I have seen the effects of such things. One of the  
8 effects of flooding is inaccessibility to parts of the land.  
9 The proposed pipeline route between mile markers 382 and 386  
10 is predominantly wetlands, I'm very concerned about the  
11 effects of the equipment and construction on these wetlands,  
12 even in drought you don't drive through some of this land  
13 because of the damage that it does.

14           If this pipeline is constructed I am sure they  
15 will have to be a road of some sort alongside of this so  
16 that they can access it, aren't they supposed to like drive  
17 along the pipeline and check it every two weeks or  
18 something? Anyway -- so surely an east/west road in that  
19 location will disrupt some of the natural flow of water  
20 which slowly drains south towards the Withlacoochee River, I  
21 would like to know how this will be addressed if FERC  
22 approves this.

23           Sabal Trail has made a few changes in their  
24 route. One moves the pipeline about a quarter of a mile  
25 east between mile markers 7 -- 379 and 383. For those of

1 you attending Dunnellon High School and Dunnellon Elementary  
2 School, Sabal Trail just leaves this behind some trees, it  
3 goes by schools. Also as far as the re-route around the  
4 edge of Hipotestanakee, that's only a slight improvement in  
5 that deal, Sabal Trail still intends to build that noisy,  
6 polluting Dunnellon compressor station near several  
7 Chassahowitzka populations and may I add the Bellgo and that  
8 other subdivision over there, I don't know if those people  
9 are even aware of what is coming their way if this happens.

10           They still will be going through miles of  
11 sensitive eco-systems and crossing the Withlacoochee River.  
12 The pipeline route is still on Chassahowitzka if relocated.  
13 But that is okay, why not put it all on state land and I'm  
14 just kidding but just get it off Flying Key Ranch.

15           Not that I don't think that having it on state  
16 land is any better just I say don't build it, don't approve  
17 it. I am sorely disappointed with the Florida Audubon  
18 Society for sending a letter of support of Sabal Trail to  
19 Kimberly Bowes and that is Charles Lee's letter of October  
20 4th. What about the wild life on private lands? I mean do  
21 they just stick up -- Audubon Society for public lands and  
22 certain isolated populations?

23           Scrub jays are the Pithlachascotee, because they  
24 were on Flying Key Ranch before the state had the land. Now  
25 that the state has the land some of that has gotten grown

1 up, when the cattle were there they kept it down and kept  
2 more of the scrub habitat. I am asking the Federal Energy  
3 Regulatory Commission not to approve Sabal Trail's  
4 application. At the very least lay it and require better,  
5 more thorough environmental studies.

6 I don't see the need for more natural gas to be  
7 piped to Florida at all. Two-thirds of our electricity  
8 already comes from natural gas. Also I certainly don't want  
9 it piped to my home so if Dunnellon intends to try and bring  
10 piped natural gas to the city and to this area count me out,  
11 I approve that waiver.

12 Please Dunnellon don't try and get into another  
13 utility venture. Natural gas is not clean energy. The  
14 verdict is still out on fracking. The trend is going toward  
15 more energy efficiency and people are using less electricity  
16 in their homes. There is still considerable wasted energy  
17 in businesses and even power generation plants, let's work  
18 on that. Let's encourage solar power in homes and business,  
19 let's look intelligently at alternative energy for Florida  
20 instead of destroying more land and putting lives at risk  
21 for another high-pressured gas pipeline and let's control  
22 our development in Florida.

23 One final concern and it's not the final because  
24 I have one more after this. If the pipeline is approved  
25 Sabal Trail and FERC are going to bring us a huge safety

1 hazard and a target for terror attacks. Dunnellon's fire  
2 truck cannot even handle a three story hotel that City  
3 Council approved recently Dunnellon is unprepared to handle  
4 a pipeline leak or an explosion. If approved Sabal Trail  
5 brings far more harm than good to our area.

6 I made some notes about one more thing -- the  
7 operation of the ranch. This pipeline would cut right  
8 through the north side of the ranch and right through the  
9 south side of the ranch. This brings problems for the  
10 ranch. The cattle pens would be cut off -- that's a major  
11 problem, pastures will be rendered unavailable, moving them  
12 to cattle in their weekly grazing rotation would be  
13 disruptive -- that's a huge problem.

14 Movement of the employees and the people that we  
15 have coming in to do agricultural work through the ranch  
16 daily will be disruptive, they would cut off water supply to  
17 the cattle -- huge, huge problem. Gates are always  
18 improperly shut by power line people. If that happens you  
19 know cows get mixed up like they did, you know another time  
20 when Sabal Trail people were out there -- there were  
21 hundreds of cattle that got mixed up and they all had to be  
22 sorted again.

23 And my husband already works 24/7 and he doesn't  
24 have that many employees. He doesn't need that. Power  
25 company employees could be going through the ranch for

1 maintenance which I mean even that I mean cattle are going  
2 to see people in trucks that don't belong there and when you  
3 are weaning cows and the cows are freshly put out into a  
4 pasture, I mean they can get spooked and we could have a  
5 trample.

6           It is just a general disruption of the operation  
7 of the ranch, costly in terms of dollars, time, planning for  
8 the future operations, aggravation, risk of cattle getting  
9 out on the highway and mixed up birds and that is what I  
10 wanted to say except I want to provide you all with these to  
11 look at a few of the photos that I brought. I just brought  
12 a few.

13           These were taken over 20 years ago. It was of  
14 sand hill cranes doing the courtship dance on the south  
15 side. So they would be like the parents, grandparents  
16 whatever, of the generations now. This is just a pair of  
17 burrowing owls that I took on Sunday, okay in this picture  
18 you can see the gopher tortoise and you can see the tire  
19 tracks from the survey crew when they went right by it and  
20 there is a frog in there too.

21           Look on the back side of that maybe the gopher  
22 frogs on that, is there a gopher frog in that one? And here  
23 is another picture of the gopher frog. This is the picture  
24 of the black snake with another gopher frog in its mouth and  
25 this is the gopher frog after he escaped with that little

1 scratch on him, he made it.

2           This is the pair of bald eagles, that's -- every  
3 year and that was taken in September so they are back on the  
4 next now, I mean they haven't laid eggs or anything but they  
5 came back, they come back every year. Just another  
6 burrowing owl, just a burrowing owl in flight -- now I take  
7 these pictures with my blackberry, I don't have a good  
8 camera yet but I am going to get one.

9           Okay this is one of the fox squirrels that is on  
10 the pipeline route, he's hunkered down, we drove up, his  
11 little buddy was out there too and there was a nest not far  
12 from there. This is one of the gators, gopher tortoise,  
13 wooded stork from the south side sand hill cranes moved one  
14 of the chicks from this year.

15           This gate is on the pipeline route, here's  
16 another gator taken that same day the picture and that is a  
17 Sabal Trail stake in the picture. If you look on the other  
18 side that is a picture of him closer up that we drove around  
19 and looked at him. And that's a gator that is not on the  
20 pipeline route but it is on the ranch and that one is pretty  
21 vicious, when the draught was there Rock Springs dried up to  
22 a three foot hole, now it is much bigger, at one time that  
23 pond was full of bass and I mean I just -- it was a lot of  
24 water, I can't say how much or how I know how much but a  
25 lot.

1           So I just want you to know that this is just a  
2   few of the pictures that I want to go ahead and take back  
3   because I didn't really -- I mean they are not very good and  
4   you know maybe I will get some better ones and send them to  
5   FERC or something. I wanted you to see it, that's all.

6           MR. PECONOM: Thank you, our next speaker is Mr.  
7   Tom Knipe.

8           MR. KNIPE: My name is Tom Knipe, T-o-m  
9   K-n-i-p-e, do you want my address? Okay -- first things  
10  first. What do we need this pipeline for? It sure won't  
11  help the vast majority of people in Florida but it sure will  
12  make a few mega money corporations millions and billions  
13  more which are government is part and parcel. This project  
14  is the biggest snow job without a flake falling to hit this  
15  state in a long time.

16           Why do these people need a hundred foot  
17  right-of-way for a three foot line? Guess what, down the  
18  road once they get approval more lines are coming once they  
19  get the okay. Also, when they get the okay over private  
20  land, this is private land 100 foot wide, don't forget this  
21  folks, you can kiss your rights goodbye. They could come in  
22  like they are rolling and can do anything they want with the  
23  blessing of the local politicians.

24           And how about the line size, 36 inch of 600 psi  
25  which will probably go to 800 psi with the 24 inch branch

1 line going to the Crystal River -- this is a lot of gas for  
2 a powerboat. I worked in the building craze so I know, so I  
3 suspect we are going to have an LNG terminal that is  
4 liquefied natural gas is in the works folks.

5 Remember a couple of years ago our Governor Rick  
6 was talking about a deep water port in Crystal River, so  
7 this is big oil and ship our gas that we get out of the  
8 ground here in America to the Panama Canal to the Far East  
9 at a big cost. Today on the wholesale market I just looked  
10 on the television it was selling on the wholesale market for  
11 \$2.57.

12 How about safety? Here's one for you. The line  
13 is one continuous weld from point A to point B, all the way  
14 welded, that means not just connected at the weld there but  
15 the line itself in between weld and weld is welded because  
16 they don't have what they call pipe that is seamless in that  
17 size.

18 What about the expansion of the gas in the event  
19 of a major leak? At 600 psi the gas expands four to one  
20 that means 40 cubic feet for every cubic foot at 600 psi.  
21 At 800 it will be better, so I am telling you folks if this  
22 line goes through you can kiss more of your rights goodbye,  
23 sold out to big money and rotten politics, God save America.

24 MR. PECONOM: Thank you sir, our next speaker is  
25 Mr. John Brainer --

1 MR. BRAINER: I have spoken my comments already.

2 MR. PECONOM: Thank you sir, Mr. Charles Kelly?

3 MR. KELLY: Charles Kelly, C-h-a-r-l-e-s  
4 K-e-l-l-y. I'm a resident of Sumter County I am in favor of  
5 the pipeline for the jobs and the monetary value that it  
6 will bring to this town or Sumter County and all of the  
7 counties along the line, thank you.

8 MR. PECONOM: Thank you sir. Our next speaker is  
9 Mr. Robert Teran.

10 MR. TERAN: Hello Robert Teran, T-e-r-a-n. I am  
11 an international representative of the International  
12 Operating Engineers Pipeline Department. I am here  
13 representing trained and qualified heavy equipment operators  
14 that will be dispatched at local operating engineer union  
15 halls. The operating engineers are in favor for this and  
16 this project. The operating engineers are in favor for the  
17 SMP Project so therefore would have access to a cleaner  
18 burning fuel for electricity and manufacturing that will in  
19 turn put people to work by power plants and factories  
20 burning natural gas they can produce energy and leave a  
21 smaller carbon footprint in the process.

22 Also we believe that piping -- in transportation  
23 the quality is safer to the public and the environment than  
24 using rail or truck. Again I ask that FERC approve this  
25 project, thank you.

1                   MR. PECONOM: Thank you sir, our next speaker is  
2 Miss Sandra Marraffino.

3                   MS. MARRAFFINO: Hi I'm Sandra Marraffino,  
4 S-a-n-d-r-a M-a-r-r-a-f-f-i-n-o. I'm a member of Marion  
5 County Audubon Society. When I first became aware that  
6 Sabal Trail proposed construction of their natural gas  
7 pipeline through the Chassahowitzka Springs which is by the  
8 way called Chief Alligator, the real name of the property,  
9 it is an 8,000 acre preserve owned by the Southwest Water  
10 Management Company just north of Dunnellon between 484 and  
11 485. I became very alarmed because I had been part of  
12 Florida's scrub jay surveys on the property for the past  
13 several years along with the volunteers and scrub jays were  
14 thriving on the preserve but losing ground elsewhere.

15                   These scrub jays are our only endemic bird, the  
16 only bird that is found only in Florida and breeds only in  
17 Florida. Their numbers are down dramatically and they exist  
18 in Oak trunk habitats and I know they locate mainly in  
19 Central Florida having lost their habitat to the development  
20 elsewhere.

21                   Southwest has done a great job of burning various  
22 parcels along the preserve to maintain their oak scrub areas  
23 where they live and they bury up to 6 to 8,000 acorns a year  
24 just to survive the winter and they find about 90% of them.  
25 FERC regulatory conservation, Sabal Trail, swift mud and

1 Marion County Audubon members were led by the Director of  
2 Advocacy of Florida Audubon Charles Lee through the  
3 property. Charles has a knowledge of everything Florida and  
4 he gave us a great tour.

5 Unmature, we knew that the proposed construction  
6 site, Sabal Trail had determine there were no scrub jays on  
7 this route and thus they would not be disturbed by this  
8 construction. One of the members of FERC and I won't name  
9 who accidentally brushed against an oak tree, disrupting the  
10 scrub jays they had not read where they were supposed to be  
11 on this trail.

12 Charles worked with all of the above  
13 representatives and other state agencies to protect these  
14 federally endangered species and alternative routes through  
15 Greenway Trails by Green Pond was agreed upon by all  
16 parties. In reference to the possible Bellago operating  
17 pipeline to the west, I have a new map of this year's  
18 surveys which shows the scrub jays expansion of range near  
19 the Bellago property so I don't think that's a feasible  
20 alternative.

21 This year's jay watch had found -- on new studies  
22 being held and we at Audubon and Marion Audubon Society wish  
23 to thank FERC for all of their efforts in preservation of  
24 the Florida scrub jays, thank you.

25 MR. PECONOM: Thank you the next speaker is David

1 Brier.

2 MR. BRIER: My name is David Brier, D-a-v-i-d  
3 B-r-i-e-r. I'm the business manager for Local 517 directly  
4 affiliated with the Laborer's International Union of North  
5 America shorter known as LIUN, LIUN that has over a century  
6 of experience of working with responsible contractors in the  
7 pipeline industry. We have hundreds of thousands of man  
8 hours in which we have supplied not only excellent workers  
9 but trained workers, training and work experience are what  
10 gets us through these pipeline agreements.

11 It is our belief that when we go into an area  
12 when we leave that area we leave it if not as good or better  
13 than it was when we got there. We have currently in the  
14 past five years had 80 million man hours involved with  
15 projects all over the United States. All of these projects  
16 were performed with excellent quality and safety and these  
17 responsible contractors are the ones that are to be held  
18 liable.

19 The contractors themselves have a firm belief in  
20 our expertise, they believe in environmental safety as well  
21 as we do so therefore that is the top priority. We believe  
22 that this project will give an economic shot into the arms  
23 of Central Florida. I have been a resident of Central  
24 Florida for 35 years, I have had my families grow up here, I  
25 have seen the economic ups and downs. I understand the

1 impassionate pleas from others, environmentalists I just  
2 can't seem to get past the fact that we have such a major  
3 concern in Central Florida with unemployment and even more  
4 disconcerting under-employment.

5           These contractors that come into the area will be  
6 providing not only a livable wage but they will also be  
7 providing health insurance, a pension benefit and more  
8 importantly will be concentrating on local hiring. It is  
9 well known that for every pipeline project that goes through  
10 there is generally two to three spinoffs of other jobs as a  
11 result.

12           It is projected for this particular line that  
13 approximately 22 million dollars in wages and 74 million a  
14 year in economics will prevail once this line is  
15 accomplished, thank you very much.

16           MR. PECONOM: Thank you Mr. Brier, the next  
17 speaker is Mr. Daniel Kurzzi.

18           MR. KURCZI: Good evening everybody. Daniel  
19 D-a-n-i-e-l K-u-r-c-z-i. I'm here on behalf of the men and  
20 women of LIUNA the Laborer's International Union of North  
21 America. We are here because we believe that you know in  
22 order to avoid damage, catastrophe, unnecessary spills, you  
23 know best proper use of land, animals escaping, damaged  
24 property, you need a trained work force and that is exactly  
25 what we do.

1           LIUNA invests about 100 million dollars a year on  
2 construction skills training necessary for these types of  
3 projects through 70 mobile and fixed training centers.  
4 These centers offer 164 hours of pipeline specific  
5 instruction. LIUNA members belong to an organization with  
6 more than a century of experience and safety building  
7 pipelines in virtually every state and province in the  
8 United States and Canada.

9           Over the last five years we have spent more than  
10 80 million man hours constructing pipelines just like the  
11 Sabal Trail. We work with contractors specializing in  
12 horizontal, directional drilling, the type of drilling that  
13 the Sabal Trail will be utilizing. We are the most  
14 experienced at this work in the country.

15           Pipeline work can be a lifeline of good jobs with  
16 family-supporting pay, health and retirement benefits when  
17 quality contractors are selected. And like Dave said we  
18 have contracts that require employers to utilize local  
19 workers. These types of projects that happen in our  
20 communities should create local jobs and they do.

21           We are experts in the pipeline industry. Our  
22 state-sealed work force is trained to safety complete the  
23 project and restore land as good or in better condition and  
24 we think that many of the contractors under consideration do  
25 use best in class training facilities which is definitely a

1 reassurance.

2                   We urge FERC to consider the experience and the  
3 qualifications of the selected contractors in their review  
4 of the pipeline project, thank you.

5                   MR. PECONOM: Following our next speaker I will  
6 go ahead and open up the meeting to other speakers who did  
7 not sign up to speak tonight, if you would like to do so  
8 after our next speaker we will give you an opportunity so  
9 Miss Marihelen Wheeler?

10                   MS. WHEELER: Marihelen Wheeler,  
11 M-a-r-i-h-e-l-e-n W-h-e-e-l-e-r. And before I start I want  
12 to congratulate you guys, union brothers, I'm also union,  
13 ACA and I'm also an unofficial member of the Laborer's  
14 up there. The reason that I am addressing you -- I would  
15 have worn my red shirt if I had known you were all going to  
16 be here but last year I ran for Congress for this District,  
17 District 3 and so the pipe fitters advised me on this Sabal  
18 Trail.

19                   I asked them about the pipeline, they are also in  
20 favor of this but what I would like to remind our FERC  
21 folks and also at the same time this is a right to work  
22 state and unless there is a guarantee you know they are  
23 going to go low any chance they get. If you guys are in  
24 charge of building that line I wouldn't worry about it but I  
25 also know that our legislators are not union people and I

1 would like to talk to some of you guys about the possibility  
2 of what and where your reassurances are coming from because  
3 a faceless company coming into Florida you know they can  
4 tell us a lot of things.

5           But Gainesville Sun, just before yesterday the  
6 duty industry would be investing in solar energy in a  
7 location outside of Romenda. And that's not much of a  
8 surprise as to speculate that the utility companies in  
9 Florida would be resisting such investment until at what  
10 time they might give up controlling the monopoly of this  
11 industry.

12           Utilities such as Duke and Florida Power and  
13 Light are profiteers for our neighbors much less our friends  
14 and I want to offer another reason besides the personal and  
15 the environmental points. FERC denies Spectra the right to  
16 move into our area transporting oil and gas that is not  
17 needed by the residents of Florida.

18           We must look at the market that is devaluing gas  
19 and oil and relate that to the need for more of the same it  
20 says our country is flooded with this stuff the only  
21 recourse for the profiteering companies is to sell abroad.  
22 If indeed oil and gas companies are laying off workers and  
23 were indeed to have a loss, what guarantee is there that  
24 those companies will maintain the pipelines that are already  
25 laid and how can they justify laying more pipe when the

1 industries are in transition away from fossil fuels?

2           Floridians are pushing for solar investments even  
3 if it means defying our state Governor and legislators. We  
4 are working harder every year to protect and preserve what  
5 we need to maintain our economy and are counting on  
6 government agencies to intervene when necessary and we are  
7 here to ask FERC -- I am here to ask FERC to deny this  
8 project.

9           As for dealing with Spectra and Duke energy,  
10 corporate domination will be a major issue for Florida as  
11 the dredging of the Miami ports and the Panama Canal, and  
12 our waterways with giant tankers waiting to be filled with  
13 natural gas that Duke Energy has already admitted it does  
14 not need with a boom and bust market that we see currently  
15 affecting the gas and oil industry, we can only imagine that  
16 with prices dropping so will the commitment of such pipeline  
17 companies will and property maintain those pipelines.

18           The Wall Street Journal published an article on  
19 the 29th of September discussing the north pipeline giants  
20 to minimize any more loss to their companies. In the  
21 article natural gas prices will remain low, the price of gas  
22 companies also transport is humbled and the outlook for  
23 growth in the pipeline industry is dimmed. The price of a  
24 barrel of oil was hovering at about \$60.00 in June it has  
25 since fallen to \$45.00.

1           Natural gas prices have dropped to about \$2.70  
2 from over \$3.00. Companies that drill for oil and gas have  
3 been cutting back leading to declines in production as well  
4 as widespread layoffs at oil field service companies and  
5 finally the article stated that a prolonged downturn would  
6 call into question the need for more infrastructure.

7           We are not willing to trade our local  
8 environmental economy for this kind of corporate  
9 speculation. There has been no evidence offered to any of  
10 us that this Sabal Trail Pipeline will serve anyone but the  
11 corporations who gamble with a future in Florida. We  
12 absolutely oppose building a Sabal Trail Pipeline and are  
13 asking the federal government instead to declare our streams  
14 and wetlands as a national heritage site to be protected for  
15 the use of well-being of future generations who will require  
16 the waters needed to sustain our lives and livelihood, thank  
17 you.

18           MR. PECONOM: Would anyone else like to speak at  
19 this time who hasn't signed up previously? Please remember  
20 to spell your first and last name for the record.

21           MS. WARE: Lailja Ware, L-a-i-l-j-a W-a-r-e. I  
22 would like to ditto what she just said, Mari, and what she  
23 said over there, thank you.

24           MR. PECONOM: Thank you ma'am, would anyone else  
25 like to speak this evening?

1 MS. SIEGFRIED: Megan Siegfried, M-e-g-a-n  
2 S-i-e-g-f-r-i-e-d and I am definitely against the pipeline  
3 since it will go right past the schools that my friends  
4 attend and also it will be in my neighborhood so it does  
5 really directly affect the people nearby and it would also  
6 affect the animals and the environment so people have to  
7 keep in mind that the animals surrounded would be affected  
8 not just by the people who want money, because I know the  
9 world is all about money.

10 MR. PECONOM: Thank you. Would you like to speak  
11 again?

12 MS. BARROW: Hi Janet Barrow, I spoke before. I  
13 just you know, it means something that Marihelen Wheeler has  
14 confidence in the construction workers back there, the  
15 union, but we have been assured over the years that people  
16 are well-trained that come on the property and over the  
17 years the power company and the survey crew continue to  
18 leave gates improperly latched and it causes us problems.

19 So you can turn in all you want, but you can't  
20 fix stupid.

21 MR. PECONOM: Thank you ma'am, would anyone else  
22 like to speak?

23 Seeing that nobody else is volunteering right now I would  
24 like to thank everyone for coming out this evening. I can  
25 assure you that all of your comments have been heard

1 tonight, I will take them back to Washington with us.

2                 Several of us will be here for the next 20  
3 minutes if you would like to talk about the project, a  
4 little bit about the FERC environmental review process, so  
5 thank you very much for coming and have a good night.

6                 (Whereupon the meeting concluded at 7:08 p.m.)

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