



**Susannah Tuttle Remarks - Press Conference - Atlanta Coast Pipeline
Fayetteville, NC – 11/15/16**

Today I am here to speak on behalf of the NC Interfaith Power & Light campaign, a program of the NC Council of Churches bringing together a community of congregations, faith based organizations, and individuals of faith responding to climate change as a moral issue. We are working to help congregations be models of energy efficiency, utilize renewable energy, and to lead by showing a strong example of stewardship of Creation. Together we envision a clean-energy future in which the poor and vulnerable no longer bear the heaviest burdens of our energy use, in which global warming has been halted, and we have begun to reverse the damage already done to our common home.

Today I am here to talk about a pipeline.

Pipelines essentially take something from one place to another and to be a human being living on earth is to benefit everyday from lots of good pipelines. This land on which we find ourselves is crisscrossed by hundreds of waterways - natural pipelines - mountain streams and gulleys and culverts that bring water to rivers and to the ocean where it eventually returns to the mountains.

And in every tree, the sap and water rises through xylem pipelines into the air and along each branch nourishing every leaf. And in each of our own bodies today our hearts are pumping blood through the rest of us, through arteries and veins bringing oxygen to every cell along extraordinary pipelines.

But now we are being asked to stand idly by as our state makes way to build an enormous unnatural Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

This pipeline whose dirty contents will reek of the destruction it caused on the way in and will surely only do damage to living things on the way out... is this the pipeline we desire?

Pipelines connect and we DO so deeply need to be connected to each other. We need pipelines of solidarity that remind us that the hopes and dreams of all the families that are on the path of this pipeline are not so different than the hopes and dreams that we have and of the hopes and dreams of people around the globe on the front lines of climate change.

But this Atlantic Coast Pipeline is not the pipeline that we need. We need pipelines carrying ingenuity to bring us new solutions for getting our electricity from sun & wind, to produce clean energy from heaven instead of dirty energy from hell.

This Atlantic Coast Pipeline is not the pipeline that we need. We need pipelines to bring us an expanded consciousness to see that we are deeply connected to the entire ecosystem, to the plants and to the animals, to see that what we do to our natural world will touch us too, and soon.

This Atlantic Coast Pipeline is not the pipeline that we need. We need pipelines carrying, conveying our highest hopes for the future that might lead us towards decisions that dare to imagine a better, safer, clear world for our children and grandchildren.

We need pipelines full of compassion to remind our leaders and business people of our common humanity that we are all in one boat and that we will only preserve the earth's climate by working together. Now, more than ever.