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PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Envision Franklin County
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To the Public Service Commissioners,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments. This is a vital issue for the future of our region, and we appreciate your careful consideration of our perspective.

EnvisionFranklinCounty is a citizen's group in Franklin County that promotes a healthy, beautiful, and thriving community and encourages development that results in good relationships among people, the land, and future generations. I am a member of this group, and we are gravely concerned about the impacts of the proposed Kentucky American (KAW) Pipeline on the environment and quality of life of northern Franklin County.

We are deeply involved in the Frankfort/Franklin County Comprehensive Plan Update process, and the recently adopted Goals and Policies of the Comprehensive Plan are the result of a year and a half of committee meetings and broad community involvement which culminated in a recommendation of adoption from the Planning and Zoning Commission and adoption by both the City Commission and the Fiscal Court. We believe that these Goals and Policies lead our community in the right direction for the future.

The construction of the KAW pipeline would hinder planners in implementing each of the goals Frankfort/Franklin County Comprehensive Plan, and, because of this, EnvisionFranklinCounty opposes the proposed KAW pipeline.

Our members have been active in questioning the wisdom of constructing this pipeline, and we ask you to look for more fiscally, environmentally, and socially responsible ways to meet the water needs of central Kentucky. Below we have explained some of the negative impacts that the proposed KAW pipeline would have on the implementation of the Frankfort/Franklin County Comprehensive Plan and on our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Connie Lemley
2235 Gregory Woods Road
Frankfort, KY 40601

**Ways that the Proposed KAW Pipeline would Hinder the Implementation
of the Goals of the Frankfort/Franklin County Comprehensive Plan
submitted by EnvisionFranklinCounty**

Goal 1: Grow by Design

- If approved, the pipeline would hijack the county's ability to grow by design. Tap-ons for large subdivisions would be allowed and piggy-back right-of-way development would be inevitable.
- Neither the pipeline nor the development potentially associated with it was discussed as the Goals and the Policies of the Comprehensive Plan were developed, and neither the City nor the County have planned to provide the services for such development.

Moreover, the pipeline and its 90-foot construction right-of-way will destroy stone walls, woodlands, wetlands, and areas with unique historic and cultural features, such as the Switzer Bridge. These lands and features are of significant concern under Goal 1 of the Comprehensive Plan, and any development of them should entail much more thorough consideration than the current pipeline proposal entails.

Goal 2: Distinguish Town and County Identity

- The sprawl that will result from the pipeline will prevent the community from maintaining the distinction between urban and rural areas.
- The ability of the communities of Peaks Mill and Switzer to stay small and compact and retain their rural character will be compromised.
- The policy of encouraging the preservation of existing farms and rural land outside of existing and planned urban areas will be undermined.

Goal 3: Use Infrastructure as a Planning Tool

- KAW's pipeline infrastructure is designed to benefit KAW and its parent companies and stakeholders. It was not designed for the benefit of Franklin County and is clearly not intended to further the goal of having planned growth in this community. Kentucky American did not participate in the Comprehensive Plan update process and did not consider our community's vision for growth and development when it chose its preferred route.
- The Kentucky American pipeline will shift growth into areas that are not seen as desirable under the Comprehensive Plan, and will achieve exactly the opposite of what Goal 3 intends. Development along the pipeline corridor will be removed from existing infrastructure service areas, and will degrade county roads, create traffic hazards, and strain the capacity of emergency services in the area.

Goal 4: Promote Economic Health

- The KAW pipeline will take the property of many Franklin County residents and force Franklin County to bear the cost of lost property, unplanned development, and deteriorating roads.

- Study after study shows that suburban residential development costs more in community services that it generates in property tax revenues. (See attached study from the American Farmland Trust.)
- The pipeline will run under or near narrow rural roads. The cranes, bulldozers, dump trucks, blasting equipment, drill rigs, and other heavy equipment used to install the pipe will all use and negatively impact these roads.
- During construction, the residents of the area will experience inconveniences and delays.
- There is the real possibility that the pipeline construction will disrupt groundwater flows risking the water supply and livelihood of residents along the proposed pipeline route.

Goal 5: Protect Environmental Health

- The proposed pipeline threatens the integrity of the natural environment.
- The proposed pipeline will undermine the policy to encourage new development to be designed in a manner that preserves the natural topography and other natural features such as trees, woodlands, wildlife, rare species, streams, ponds, and drainage ways.
- The following rare species occur along the pipeline route:
 - **Arabis perstellata* (Braun's rockcress, USFWS Endangered, KSNPC Threatened)—4 occurrences and one designated Critical Habitat Area FR 31460 (published June 3, 2004)
 - **Lesquerella globosa* (globe bladderpod, USFWS Candidate, KSNPC Endangered)
 - **Elymus svensonii* (Svenson's wildrye, KSNPC Special Concern, species of federal interest)
 - **Rana pipiens* (northern leopard frog, KSNPC Special Concern)
 - **Gallinula chloropus* (common moorhen, KSNPC Threatened)
 - **Alasmidonta marginata* (Elktoe [mussel], KSNPC Threatened)

-Below is a list of the stream crossings that occur along the pipeline route:

- 1) Morgadore Creek (1st order)
- 2) Long Branch (1st order)
- 3) Long Branch (2nd order) —larger fork
- 4) Elkhorn Creek (1st order) —a small tributary
- 5) Elkhorn Creek (4th order) —small segment at the fish hatchery
- 6) Elkhorn Creek (2nd order) —another small tributary
- 7) Elkhorn Creek (1st order) —small tributary
- 8) Sulphur Lick (3rd order)
- 9) Rocky Branch (2nd order)
- 10) Rocky Branch (1st order)
- 11) North Elkhorn Creek (1st order)
- 12) North Elkhorn Creek (5th order)—Switzer
- 13) Jones Lane Branch (1st order)
- 14) Buck Run (1st order)

- 15) Buck Run (2nd order)
- 16) Buck Run (1st order)
- 17) South Elkhorn (1st order) –crosses twelve small branches as the route goes from 460 to 1973
- 18) Cane Run (1st order) –four small branches
- 19) Cane Run (2nd order)
- 20) Cane Run (3rd order)

-The route goes through the following HUC watersheds as identified by Division of Water.

HUC 11 priority watersheds

- 1) Cane Run HUC 0510020580200 (29145 acre)—source water area protection area for Georgetown 's Royal Springs, partners were: KRWV, Horse Park, LFUCG, Thoroughbred RC&D, Scott Co./Fayette Co. NRCS, Alltech, Friends of Cane Creek
- 2) South Elkhorn Creek HUC 05100205270 (114, 669 acres)

HUC 14 watersheds:

- 1) Cane Run—29,149 acres HUC 05100205280200
- 2) South Elkhorn Creek—13, 728 acres HUC 05100205270090

Goal 6: Preserve Existing Neighborhoods

-The proposed pipeline threatens the preservation of the rural villages of Peaks Mill and Switzer.

Goal 7: Enhance Community Quality and Character

-The proposed pipeline threatens the rural character of Franklin County.

The proposed Kentucky American Pipeline will require a 30-foot wide permanent easement and a 90-foot wide construction easement. It will create a swath of disturbed earth, uprooted trees, torn-up pavement, and compromised fencelines during the roughly two year construction period, and, after completion, it will open northern Franklin County to sprawling, unplanned development. None of the outcomes of this proposed project match the Goals and Policies of the Comprehensive Plan, and the proposed Kentucky American pipeline brings little or no benefit to the citizens of Franklin County.

Better alternatives exist for supplying water to Central Kentucky, and we request that the Frankfort/Franklin County Planning and Zoning Commission sends comments to the Public Service Commission highlighting the myriad ways that going forward with this project will threaten the ability of this community to implement the goals and policies of our Comprehensive Plan.