To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding HBCU-13-06

Coos County Sheep Company and Leatherman Land & Timber Co. are writing to strongly encourage the approval of the conditional use of zoned land for the Blue Ridge Route. Due to the fact that the type of zoned lands are the same & the zoning requirements should be the same, the Blue Ridge Route needs to be considered. We own land on both routes, and will be effected regardless of which is chosen, but the Blue Ridge Route is far superior in our opinion.

Our reasons for supporting the Blue Ridge Route are as follows.

1. If this project is for “the public good” then let us put as much as possible on public lands. The Blue Ridge Route between mile posts 11 and 23 is 52% on public land vs. 12 % in the filed route. There are two effected residences on the Blue Ridge Route vs. 40 residences on the filed route.
2. The Blue Ridge Route is shorter in total length.
3. The current “approved” route will greatly hamper our ability to effectively manage our timberlands in the future. CCSC & LLT currently have a multitude of large public utility easements. All of these utilities celebrate how easy they will be to work with when getting their easement, but find little time or money to follow through with that talk once the pen has hit the paper. The Blue Ridge Route will limit, as much as possible, the length of pipeline on our property, helping our small businesses be successful keeping this “for the good of the public” project on public lands.
4. Also, on the current “approved” route public access to our private property will also result. This would significantly opening up the potential for vandalism & fire.
5. As third generation tree farmers we consider ourselves stewards of the land. Ridge top construction of the pipeline will protect against damage to streams,
protecting against stream erosion, soil displacement, increased turbidity, damage to riparian zones, and sensitive Coho habitat.

6. The Blue Ridge Route also greatly decreases the number of people living along pipeline. This in turn should greatly reduce the number of LNG pipeline incidences, simply due to the fact that according to Williams, the number one cause of incidents is people.

7. Lastly, the Blue Ridge Route is currently the preferred route of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

In closing, let's put the pipeline where it belongs on the Blue Ridge Route. Failure to do so will leave our small companies no other option than going to court, which will benefit no one.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dustin Clarke
Coos County Sheep Co.
Leatherman Land & Timber Co.