**Kamen, Jeff Ananda – Safety Hazards**

“Justice delayed is justice denied” taught Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and he also offered us this: “ Just a tiny minute, only 60 seconds in it, it wasn't mine to choose it, but I know I can't refuse it, because eternity is in it.” It's a concept called the appropriate hour of the Lord and when he says to us through the time that he was here and that his spirit is now pervading us, is that there is no time but now. This moment is every moment that we have and we have to give ourselves to that time, and in this case, to this cause.

I wish to thank the organizers of this event for their hard work and their dedication to justice. They inspire me just as I continue to be inspired by Heather Heyer. I know which side Heather would have been on in this struggle had she not been murdered by a Nazi coward. Heather would have been with us here today at this People's Tribunal.

While are no neo-Nazis parading through our streets in Charlottesville today, white supremacy is very much at work in the offices of Dominion energy and its partners whose lust for profits overwhelm morality and common decency, callously hurting black people in the name of corporate profit. The ACP’s proposed pipeline route and compressor station in Buckingham County will put the health of the community of mostly elderly African Americans at high risk and deeply damage the value of the property held by this vulnerable population.

The construction of the pipeline and of the compressor station will shatter the peace and quiet of the environment in and around that Union Hill community. The actual operation of the pipeline carries risks of leaks and explosion. I live close enough to its published route that my wife and I, like our Union Hill neighbors, could be incinerated in the leak-fueled explosion just like the innocent family killed by the El Paso pipeline disaster. It was a lovely day back then, just like this one. The family began to enjoy a gentle picnic lunch when a corroded pipe burst. The fireball was visible for 20 miles. The operation of the compressor station now scheduled for construction within yards of the Union Hill community comes with emissions which ultimately would poison the air and water consumed by the black Virginians of Union Hill.

Please keep in mind that the Atlantic Coast pipeline is not an energy source needed by the people of Virginia. It is purely about profit for their shareholders that includes Dominion’s officers, some of whom hold millions in company stock. Let me be clear. I am a capitalist. I own stock and I want those shares to make a profit.

There's nothing wrong with that unless the company I've invested in is raping the environment and committing an act of despicable economic injustice which disproportionately threatens African American people. Have they had not suffered enough at the hands of profiteers? Their ancestors were kidnapped from Africa and enslaved by wealthy Virginians in the name of profit. Now, five generations after the Emancipation Proclamation, Black people descended from freed slaves are watching as wealthy white Virginians are upending their lives, threatening their health and deeply wounding the market value of their property, their legacy for their children and grandchildren.

Fifty years ago I was a young reporter assigned to cover Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Civil Rights movement. While doing that I observed the powerful moral authority of black people at work. It is astonishing to me that the rich and famous white people who are at the top of the Dominion pyramid have abandoned their own moral authority in the name of profit which depends on the abuse of Black people again today. Half a century later it looks to me like nothing has changed when it comes to Black Americans, the way they are routinely abused by the corporate elite who routinely buy the loyalty of our lawmakers. Dominion, as you know, is the largest contributor of money to Virginia politicians whose job is supposed to be representing the people. Money rules. African-Americans suffer. It is an old story of power and heartlessness. It is plantation politics. It is rooted in white supremacy plain and simple. Of course Dominion’s leadership is not made up of identified neo-Nazis but by the way they are treating my Black neighbors in Union Hill you'd never know that. Thank you.