



August 26, 2024

Loudoun Coalition of Homeowners and Condominium

Commissioners of the Virginia State Corporation Commission
P.O. Box 1197
Richmond, VA 23218

Re: Support of Undergrounding 500kV/230kV Transmission Lines along the Aspen to Golden Route as proposed by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Dear Commissioners,

The Loudoun Coalition of Homeowners and Condominium Associations (the “Coalition”) is a volunteer organization comprising over 30 Loudoun County residential property owner associations representing over 40,000 residents in Loudoun County. We are writing on behalf of all residents within the Coalition to express support for undergrounding the 500kV/230kV transmission lines along both the Aspen to Golden and the future Golden to Mars proposals. Undergrounding portions Dominion’s proposed 500kV/230kV lines is necessary to ensure that the residents along the proposed routes do not suffer the loss of their property values. Moreover, it will fundamentally alter the ambiance and quality of life and significantly diminish the economic value of property and quality of life for those who will then live in a new industrialized environment.

Dominion’s in-process and pending above-ground proposals in Loudoun should receive exceptional scrutiny by the State Corporation Commission. Loudoun County is the Internet capital of the world, with 70% of Internet traffic travelling underground and connecting to our numerous data centers. Given this unique global role for the County, it is more than reasonable to give undergrounding high voltage power for routes that pass residential and scenic areas serious consideration. A unique problem merits a unique response.

Not undergrounding will continue the negative trend of powerlines proliferation. Given that Loudoun is already significantly developed, this will continue to devalue homes and communities while blocking scenic viewsheds with industrial above-ground infrastructure. This is as unacceptable as it is avoidable. The undergrounding pilot program proposed by the County and others will benefit all of Loudoun County but also other areas in Virginia because of the experience and knowledge that will be gained thereby. The County’s undergrounding plan would ensure the safe and reliable delivery of power where it is needed while preserving the scenic beauty and property values throughout Loudoun County.

This project can be a transformative endeavor that helps to balance Virginia's growing energy needs brought on by data centers while doing right by residents that must co-exist in close proximity with the data centers.

Growing public concern over the proliferation of massive above-ground powerlines and 190-foot towers to supply data centers has caused a backlash against the data center industry and power companies such as Dominion. Pursuing an undergrounding solution in this unique location is one of the most effective ways for the State Corporation Commission to minimize the backlash, foster economic development and shield residents from the adverse effects of above-ground transmission lines.

In conclusion, the Coalition urges the Virginia State Corporation Commission to approve the County's proposal to underground portions of the 500kV/230kV transmission lines along the Aspen to Golden and Golden to Mars Routes and establish the proposed Pilot Program to capture lessons learned for future proposals that will inevitably impact other communities and homeowners.

Thank you for your consideration.

Loudoun Coalition of Homeowners and Condominium



Michael D. Rhodes
Chair



Benjamin P. Keethler
Vice Chair