



Commissioners, Virginia State Corporation Commission

P.O. Box 1197 Richmond, VA 23218

Re: Support for Undergrounding 500kV/230kV Transmission Lines along the Aspen to Golden Route

Dear Commissioners,

We, the undersigned representatives of the Coalition of Loudoun County Towns, write to express our full support for the undergrounding of Dominion Energy's proposed 500kV/230kV transmission lines along the Aspen to Golden Route at locations along the Route where it is feasible. The proposed Route will impact highly developed parts of our County, including residential, commercial, religious, and school properties. Moreover, the Route proposed by Dominion will materially diminish historical and scenic easements. Undergrounding the Route to the greatest extent possible will protect the economic value and aesthetic quality of our communities while not inhibiting the construction of sustainable energy infrastructure development.

The Coalition of Loudoun Towns is made up of all seven (7) incorporated Towns in Loudoun County: Hamilton, Hillsboro, Leesburg, Lovettsville, Middleburg, Purcellville and Round Hill. As community leaders, we are acutely aware of the profound impacts that energy and electrical infrastructure projects are having on our local environment and quality of life, impacts that will multiply exponentially in the coming years as demand for electricity soars to levels never seen. Project by project, these impacts will compound beyond retrieval if we do not have the foresight to proactively mitigate some amount of the impact to scenic assets coming from exploding electrical demand.

The failure of the energy industry to adequately cope with the electricity demand crisis that currently exists should not be an excuse to impose outdated above-ground infrastructure everywhere in the County where data centers have proliferated. We know that power lines are being proposed in a number of locations and that our citizens will be impacted if viable alternatives are not considered and approved.

The proposal to underground the transmission lines aligns with our shared goals of preserving the natural beauty and cultural heritage of Loudoun County and surrounding areas. Undergrounding these lines will mitigate visual blight and potential health concerns associated with overhead transmission, thereby enhancing property values and maintaining the scenic integrity of our region. If the Commission does not take proactive steps to underground some percentage of the lines planned to address the expanding demand for electricity, Loudoun County and its Towns will be crisscrossed by a giant web of high-voltage transmission lines.

We also recognize the importance of modernizing our energy infrastructure to meet growing demands and enhance grid reliability. Investing in underground transmission technology will contribute to a more resilient electrical grid capable of withstanding adverse weather events and minimizing service disruptions, essential features for sustaining economic growth and community well-being.

As representatives of our communities, we commend the Virginia State Corporation Commission for considering the long-term benefits of undergrounding and urge your full support for this essential method of infrastructure improvement. The impacts on scenic assets, the environment, and quality of life in our towns happen project-by-project and cumulatively, all at once. Please consider solutions that address the impacts in kind.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that the Commission prioritize the undergrounding of 500kV/230kV transmission lines along the Aspen to Golden Route. This decision will not only enhance the quality of life for residents and businesses in Loudoun County but also set a precedent for sustainable infrastructure development across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We stand ready to provide any additional information or support you may require as you deliberate on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Kelly Burk
Mayor, Town of Leesburg



Chris Hornbaker
Mayor, Town of Lovettsville



Bridge Littleton
Mayor, Town of Middleburg



Scott Ramsey
Mayor, Town of Round Hill



Stan Milan
Mayor, Town of Purcellville



Ken Wine
Mayor, Town of Hamilton



Roger Vance
Mayor, Town of Hillsboro