

# TURNER HOLDEN & TURNER

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April 1, 2024

Via Electronic Mail to:

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors  
1 Harrison Street, SE  
Leesburg, Virginia 20175

Re: County of Loudoun Action on the Proliferation of Transmission Lines

Dear Members of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors,

As you know, Loudoun County is the data center capital of the world and that has been a financial boon to the County and its taxpayers. Now, however - as we all begin to realize - there are negative impacts, including the proliferation of high voltage power lines. These lines are being built and new lines are being proposed in all parts of Loudoun.

The location of these lines is being promoted by the PJM Board of Managers, comprised of private power-line professionals with backing from state and federal agencies. Although they may be well intentioned, none of these actors are acquainted with or accountable to the localities where the power-lines are ultimately built. Worse yet is the fact that the State Corporation Commission can only react to these plans, and localities have traditionally taken little or no action to participate in or advocate for their constituents. Except Loudoun, which appears now to have taken a keen interest in these decisions.

Governor Youngkin acknowledged local government's legitimate role last year in a statement about undergrounding power lines. He said:

County of Loudoun

April 1, 2024

Page 2

The best approach for making these decisions is at the local level, where a collaborative process involving public hearings and community engagement can take place. I encourage localities to continue to involve stakeholders in these discussions to ensure their voices are heard as they work towards a solution that can benefit the affected parties.

We believe that Loudoun County should be leading the way for other jurisdictions by taking bold and decisive action to address these concerns.

**The Board's agenda for Tuesday's meeting contains an item stating that there will be a closed session to *"consult with legal counsel on actual or probable litigation regarding the application by Virginia Electric and Power Company [Dominion Energy] for the approval and certification of electric transmission lines in the vicinity of Route 7 in Loudoun County."***

On behalf of Lansdowne Conservancy [whose members and non-member owners, in part, include, Lansdowne on the Potomac, Lansdowne Village Greens, Lansdowne Woods, Inova Loudoun Hospital, Loudoun Medical Group, Lansdowne Resort & Spa, the National Conference Center, Seldens Landing Elementary, Belmont Middle School, Riverside High School and many other businesses and residential associations], I respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors take bold action with all deliberate speed to intervene at the SCC, to help mitigate the impact of transmission lines along the Aspen to Golden route, and to make sure our voice is heard and the County's interests are protected. To bolster any action taken by the Board of Supervisors at the State Corporation Commission level, the Lansdowne Conservancy Board of Directors and its members remain committed to its continued efforts to work and collaborate with the Board of Supervisor to help protect our scenic easements, historic resources and sensitive areas that are irreparably harmed by above ground transmission lines.

Both eastern and western Loudoun are under threat, and concerned citizens throughout Loudoun have taken steps to form alliances to work collaboratively with others where their interests align. The Lansdowne Conservancy supports the efforts of the Western Transmission Line Alliance, the Waterford Foundation, the Community Church and Loudoun Academy and others who are in the process of joining this effort.

If Loudoun is to remain a desirable place to live, work and prosper the Board must be courageous, forceful and innovative in advocating for us all. The Board has available to

County of Loudoun  
April 1, 2024  
Page 3

it and should consider all available alternatives and employ all reasonable means, legal as well as governmental, to prevent the destruction of our quality of life and sense of place and avoid actions that would unnecessarily expand the need for the new greenfield powerline routes.

Very truly yours,

*Bryan Turner*

Bryan S. Turner  
General Counsel  
Lansdowne Conservancy

cc: Leo Roger, Esq., County Attorney  
Tim Hemstreet, County Administrator

Lansdowne on the Potomac  
Lansdowne Village Greens  
Lansdowne Woods  
Lansdowne Resort and Spa  
Inova Loudoun Hospital  
The National Conference Center  
Loudoun Medical Group  
Loudoun Community Church  
Western Transmission Line Alliance  
Waterford Foundation  
Piedmont Environmental Council  
Loudoun Coalition of Homeowner and Condominium Associations