COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

MICHAEL J. WEBERT
MAJORITY WHIP

POST OFFICE BOX 469
WARRENTON, VIRGINIA 20188

EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
COMMERCE AND ENERGY
AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
PUBLIC SAFETY
RULES

October 18, 2023

Dear Mr. David Souder,
Chairman, Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee
2750 Monroe Blvd
Audubon, PA 19403

I strongly oppose the proposed transmission line routes shortlisted by the PJM Interconnect Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee (TEAC) that were presented at the Reliability Analysis Update meeting on October 3, 2023. Several of the proposals – including PSEG 325, Transource 904 and 977, Dominion 711 and 671, and Nextera 766 – are cause for grave concern. They will have a long-term, adverse effect on the designated corridors and surrounding areas across my district.

My district is home to more than 85,000 people who largely rely on the agriculture industry and local businesses of Fauquier County. Much of our income is dependent upon the land, which hosts the many thriving farms, wineries, and breweries that drive my district's economy. Much of the appeal and success in these and other local businesses depends on our spectacular view shed which would be significantly disrupted by the proposed corridors. Further, the proposed high-voltage transmission line routes cross historic and protected lands. As you might imagine, attempting to use these areas will present a host of other restrictions and construction problems.

My district has already been significantly impacted by existing transmission routes that run through our countryside. As a result of this experience and what they have observed in surrounding counties, my constituents almost universally oppose any new corridors that run through our rural lands. They have made their opposition abundantly clear to me over the past several years.

In this regard, my constituents have successfully fought against other such proposals in the past. They are already organizing to resist any plans that would result in the construction of transmission lines in new right of ways. These opposition groups include four citizens and conservation organizations; the Piedmont Environmental Council, Protect Fauquier, Protect Catlett, and Citizens for Fauquier County. This does not include additional organizations and individuals likely to form in opposition to further projects of this type.

I'm confident that they have the overwhelming support of my constituents in Fauquier County. This consortium of citizens groups has thousands of members and is familiar with matters relating to transmission line routing. They are fiercely determined to prevent the expansion of power line corridors in my district and will oppose these proposals in every legal way possible. I further expect that other local organizations will unite in opposition to PJM's proposed corridor.

DISTRICT: (540) 999-8218 • RICHMOND: (804) 698-1018 • EMAIL: DELMWEBERT@HOUSE.VIRGINIA.GOV

Local opposition is intensified by the knowledge that the proposed lines are, as PJM itself has acknowledged, primarily to serve the explosive growth of data centers and their electric load demand in Loudoun and Prince William Counties. Fauquier County has chosen a different path, strictly limiting its own approvals for data centers. The county's leaders have deliberately chosen to protect their county's landscape, culture, and economic base that centers around tourism and agriculture. They have absolutely no interest in destroying my district's heritage and economy by supporting private data center corporations in other counties who have chosen this path.

I fully support my constituents in their opposition on this issue and stand with them as their legislator to prevent the expansion of power line corridors in my district. Of course, the core responsibility of my position is to legislate and I maintain this as an option for protecting my district if it becomes necessary.

I trust that PJM and the TEAC will see the very present issues to pursuing this transmission line corridor in Fauquier County and find a more viable solution. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

In Service,



Michael J. Webert
Delegate, 18th District

CC: Tarik Bensala, TEAC Secretary
Kenneth Seiler, SVP PJM