

Letters Received as of December 1, 2023 Regarding Proposed Transmission Upgrades in Advance of the December 5, 2023 Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee Meeting

The following emails and letters were submitted to the Secretary of the PJM Members Committee - David Anders - pursuant to the Board Communications process and are being posted pursuant to that process. A response will be provided to these communications in due course and will be posted on the Board Communications page as well.

PJM Board of Managers;

I am writing to you to reject the recommendation for 2022 Window 3 projects.

We currently live at the base of the short hill mountain on Long lane and have existing power lines on our property. You may recall in 2008 the whole PATH proposal that we fought to keep the atrocious metal structures out of our viewshed, well guess what, it is just a different name now. We own 47 acres and are in the process of considering putting it into conservation easement and this whole new expansion of ROW is having an effect on the process and decision.

Having one transmission line across our property, two if you count the neighbors, and it appears to be morphing into even more atrocious eyesores, ruining our viewshed with higher reflective bright metal structures, creating even more constant humming from the power lines and not to mention ill effects on our livestock and ourselves from EMFs, so basically rendering our property useless and hazardous.

I ask that you deny this project and deny the electricity to the data centers. I suggest moving the data centers to where the power generators are, thus eliminating the need for huge long transmission lines, forcing states that are benefiting from the tax revenues of the data centers to build self-sustaining power generation facilities. Passing this \$5 billion dollar cost to the little consumers is totally unnecessary and should be put on the cost to the data centers!

Tylee Ulmer

To David Anders and the PJM Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal by PJM Interconnection for a new 500 kV transmission line in western Loudoun County. The proposed route goes through some of our most scenic and historic landscapes, over prime farmland and through important wildlife habitats.

As a resident and farmer of Western Loudoun, this issue is very important to me as well as my neighbors, customers and colleagues. The agricultural and agritourism sector is strong, but we must have undisturbed farmland and scenic views to continue what we are doing into the future. This proposed transmission line is a threat to our entire rural economic sector.

I understand that meeting the growing demand for power to data centers in Eastern Loudoun is a real challenge. But, this proposed route is likely to meet much public opposition and is already deemed to be a high constructibility risk - costing the ratepayers (here and in neighboring states) much more in the future. I encourage you to reconsider and choose an option along pre-existing transmission routes that will have lower environmental impact and will minimize the cost.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stacey Carlberg

--

she/her

Farmer + Owner

Fireside Farm



November 30, 2023

Mr. Mark Takahashi, Chair PJM Board of Directors
Mr. Manu Ashana, PJM President, and CEO
PJM INTERCONNECTION, L.L.C.
2750 Monroe Boulevard
Audubon, PA 19403

To the PJM Board of Managers:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the PJM proposal for a new greenfield 500 kV line in western Loudoun County, Virginia to be built by Florida-based NextEra (Proposal 2022- W3-853). Your maps indicate this line would transit our historic farm Brookfield located in a Land Trust of Virginia conservation easement and including around Woodburn Plantation NRHP/VLR, Mt. Gilead, Digges Valley, and Waterford National Historic Landmark along the Catoctin Ridge. There was a multi-year fight in the mid-2000s over a new transmission line in the same area of our farm that generated huge opposition and ultimately resulted in a compromise that put part of the new line under the existing right-of-way along the W&OD trail, with the rest aligned in a new right-of-way along an existing transportation corridor, namely the Leesburg Bypass.

In the intervening years, organized efforts to protect our rural Loudoun and its farming, historic, equestrian, environmental/conservation, and agritourism interests have only grown stronger. We have returned to our "traditional since 1968" Family Dairy Farm and started an agritourism Dairy and Ice Cream business. There is a very mobilized public and our customers that will fight even harder over the placement of new transmission lines through our farm again and undisturbed Loudoun countryside than they did in the mid-2000s.

The interested parties this time are much broader and span multiple counties and states. Loudoun has worked hard to promote tourism in the western half of the county, which is a major pillar in Loudoun's Comprehensive Plan. The quantity and quality of our's/other's agritourism businesses in Loudoun outpaces all other jurisdictions in Virginia. Crisscrossing this area with transmission lines to meet energy demand elsewhere would hurt this vital sector of the economy. Your proposed line will pass directly through the wetlands area of our farm endangering habitat. It will forever have devastating impacts on the viewsheds of my rural business and traditional family dairy farm.

We appreciate that PJM has a very difficult task ahead of it making up for anticipated electric power shortfalls, but we think community engagement and a broader range of alternative solutions and transmission technologies need to be considered. Meanwhile, other parts of Virginia are adding data centers, and old data centers will be modernizing with new computers that consume even more power, all further complicating PJM's task. The current path we are on is unsustainable and unscalable, and much needs to change in the way the region approves data centers and plans for the expected demand for electric power. We urge PJM to step back and reconsider its approach, with a goal of ensuring your mission to deliver power, but not at the cost of destroying the family farms, communities and other economic interests that are in your path.

Sincerely,

Susan C. Harrison, Secretary

[Redacted]
Leesburg, VA [Redacted]
[Redacted]

www.brookfield-dairyfarm.com

Ladies and Gentlemen of the PJM Board of Managers:

My name is Michelle Robbins, I live at _____, Lovettsville, VA _____. My husband (Larry) and I had a dream to build a horse farm in the county where I grew up, Loudoun County, Virginia. We did -- we have 10 acres, a barn, four paddocks, variety of other structures (including one run in shed, and small barn with run in shed, and four roofed and shingled hay feeders) and a riding ring. We did this in a lovely little community in Lovettsville Virginia named Waterfield Hamlet. This hamlet has 13 single family homes clustered in the center with seven farm lots and common areas wrapped around them. The common areas include woods with pathways, a field for Monarch Butterflies, a parade ground, ponds with ducks, blue herons, and geese. There are walking paths and riding trails throughout the entire Hamlet.

We bought the lot A in 2003, built the house in 2005, started the barn and have continued to add to the facility. We set up a breeding operation for a rare breed of horses, the Irish Draught. There are approximately 3,000 of these purebred Irish Draughts left in the world today, and six of them live on this farm. My very first Irish Draught mare, Kilbline (Molly), is buried on this farm.

My husband Larry passed away in 2019, his legacy is this farm and these horses. I still work a full-time job with the Firm I have been with for over 30 years, Booz Allen and Hamilton. I also take care of the property and the horses to the very best of my ability. I feel that I have a duty to this breed and to these horses to maintain the small herd I have here (four of these horses were born to this farm). This is their home.

I struggle daily with grief over the loss of my husband but Larry's farm and horses keep me going. I have his mare that he rode, her name is Bridon Loughlara, she is a wonderful mare. I have Tulla Gold a horse that competed and was Champion at the American Eventing Championships. I have the current reigning Irish Draught Horse Society of North America's Supreme Champion, Kilronan's Glenstone here on the farm. These horses have brought home four Upperville Colt and Horse Show (UCHS) Championship Coolers. UCHS is the oldest horse show in North America and draws horses and riders from around the world for a week of competition.

We have hosted the Loudoun County Farm Color Tour here at Kilronan Irish Draughts, with families coming in from all over to learn about the breed, to groom a horse, to participate in a mock in-hand class in the riding ring. Children as young as eight being able to lead at a walk and trot, set up, and show a horse. You should see their smiles and the delight on the faces of all involved.

I am asking you to not destroy my husband's legacy, to not destroy the home for my herd of Irish Draught horses, to not cause any more grief. This is my life you are about to destroy. Please reconsider your actions.

Respectfully,

Michelle Robbins

Kilronan Irish Draughts

To Mr. Anders and PJM Board of Managers:

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy has grave concerns regarding the PJM proposal by NextEra (Proposal 2022-W3-853) that would traverse western Loudoun County, Virginia. The proposed lines would have devastating impacts on the viewsheds of rural businesses that rely upon agritourism in the impacted area, compromise the integrity of multiple conservation easements, and it would negatively impact wildlife along the proposed path including wildlife at Sweet Run State Park such as Wood Turtles, a state threatened species confirmed to be present along the current utility right of way proposed to be expanded. We have recently learned that there may be nesting bald eagles in the vicinity of the proposed transmission lines, and we are following up with concerned landowners on this and other risks to wildlife these lines would pose.

As has been noted in the proposal review, this project has high constructability risk due to anticipated lengthy regulatory process, potential public opposition, construction difficulty, environmental constraints, and property acquisition, which will likely impact the cost and schedule for the proposed project. A lower impact and low risk option should be selected to minimize cost burden on ratepayers and landowners, in addition to reducing the environmental impacts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Myers

Michael Myers, MNM

Executive Director

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

LoudounWildlife.org

To David Anders and the PJM Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the PJM Interconnection proposal for a new 500 kV transmission line in western Loudoun County. The proposed route goes through some of our most scenic and historic landscapes, over prime farmland and through important wildlife habitats.

As a resident of Western Loudoun, this issue is very important to me as well as my neighbors, customers and colleagues. The agricultural and agritourism sector is strong, but we must have undisturbed farmland and scenic views to ensure our collective future. This proposed transmission line is a threat to our entire rural economic sector.

I understand that meeting the growing demand for power to data centers in Eastern Loudoun is a real challenge. However, this proposed route is likely to generate significant public opposition, and is already deemed to be a high constructibility risk - costing ratepayers here and in neighboring States much higher prices in the future. I encourage you to reconsider and choose an option along pre-existing transmission routes that will have lower environmental impact and minimized costs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David Belastock

To David Anders and the PJM Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal by PJM Interconnection for a new 500 kV transmission line in western Loudoun County. The proposed route goes through some of our most scenic and historic landscapes, over prime farmland and through important wildlife habitats.

As a resident of Western Loudoun, this issue is very important to me as well as my neighbors. The agricultural and agritourism sector is strong, but we must have undisturbed farmland and scenic views to continue into the future. This proposed transmission line is a threat to our entire rural economic sector.

I understand that meeting the growing demand for power to data centers in Eastern Loudoun is a real challenge. But, this proposed route is likely to meet much public opposition and is already deemed to be a high constructibility risk - costing the ratepayers (here and in neighboring states) much more in the future. I encourage you to reconsider and choose an option along pre-existing transmission routes that will have lower environmental impact and will minimize the cost.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Riddell

To the PJM Board of Managers

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the PJM proposal for a new greenfield 500kV line in western Loudoun County Virginia. Your maps indicate this line would transit historic and rural conservation areas adjacent to our farm established in the mid 1700's near the Waterford National Historic Landmark. We have lived here for over 20 years and throughout this time have enjoyed the peacefulness of the area and magnificent, unobstructed views of the Blue Ridge. On a very personal level, construction of these power lines will adversely affect the tranquility of our farm and our lifestyle, as well as our property value.

On a broader level, this construction will hurt the entire region which has worked diligently and successfully to protect rural Loudoun and its farming, historic, equestrian, environmental/conservation, and agritourism activities. The agriculture/tourism industry is Loudoun County's second economic

pillar. In fact, the quantity and quality of agritourism businesses in Loudoun outpaces all other jurisdictions in Virginia. Crisscrossing this area with transmission lines to meet energy demand elsewhere would hurt this vital sector of the economy.

I appreciate that PJM has a very difficult task in making up for anticipated electric power shortfalls, but I think community engagement and a range of transmission options and power technologies needs to be considered. I strongly encourage you to prioritize use of existing rights-of-way instead of destroying the pristine viewshed and economy that will result from proceeding with this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carmel Wood

Grassley Farm

Waterford VA

To David Anders and the PJM Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal by PJM Interconnection for a new 500 kV transmission line in western Loudoun County. The proposed route goes through some of our most scenic and historic landscapes, over prime farmland and through important wildlife habitats.

As a resident and business owner of Western Loudoun, this issue is very important to me as well as my neighbors, customers and colleagues. The agricultural and agritourism sector is strong, but we must have undisturbed farmland and scenic views to continue what we are doing into the future. This proposed transmission line is a threat to our entire rural economic sector.

I understand that meeting the growing demand for power to data centers in Eastern Loudoun is a real challenge. But, this proposed route is likely to meet much public opposition and is already deemed to be a high constructibility risk - costing the ratepayers (here and in neighboring states) much more in the future. I encourage you to reconsider and choose an option along pre-existing transmission routes that will have lower environmental impact and will minimize the cost.

Thank you,

Hannah

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Hannah York

Owner | Farm Belly | Loudoun County, VA

www.farm-belly.com

Dear Mr Anders and Members of the PJM Board,

I live on the outskirts of Waterford. I love it and intend to stay here for the rest of my days. Waterford is a national treasure and should be treated as such.

I attended a session last night in Hillsboro run by the Piedmont Environmental Council in which I learned about the data centre growth in Virginia and the subsequent need for material expansion of the electricity grid throughout Virginia and surrounding states. My background is in IT and I had considerable involvement with data centres in my role so I am very familiar with why we need them, what they are etc. I understand that the world needs them and that we all play a part in consuming the services they provide. That said we still need to be very thoughtful about where and how we deploy them and their associated infrastructure. While this is an over-simplification of the situation my observation is that:

- Virginia is addicted to the short term hit of more tax dollars and more economic development based on data centres and appears somewhat blind, ignorant or simply doesn't care about any consequential adverse impact in the short or long term.
- A thorough risk analysis that would highlight the full spectrum of pros and cons does not appear to have been carried out on a county or state wide basis

We moved to Virginia a few years ago and intend to make this our forever home. The landscape is quite stunning, business is booming, the schools are good etc. It is a wonderful place to live, and I have lived in many locations in the US and around the world. We need to treasure it and carefully manage the trade offs between business and the environment or we risk losing it all. There are so many points to consider but rather than bore you too much I will offer just a subset of those things for your consideration:

- I urge you to really think about what makes Virginia so amazing. The piedmont area, Shenandoah Valley, etc etc, with all the vineyards, breweries, farms, natural habitats, etc. This can be spoiled quite easily with pylons, constant construction, data centres. It's more fragile than perhaps many people realise. Creating short and medium term economic benefits through increased data centre business will come at a cost to those who rely on the aesthetic beauty of Virginia for their business - agritourism will suffer.
- Please encourage/force the power companies to upgrade existing transmission line pathways rather than create new ones carving through the countryside.
- Please consider conservation areas 'sacred'. They should not be obliterated because they provide an easier path than other options. Nothing will mobilise the rural population more than corporate disregard for the countryside, particularly the bits that are considered protected.
- Please do not utilise Eminent Domain to bulldoze a way through Virginia. Consultation and compromise are essential to achieve the best (or least worst) options
- Please utilise underground lines at every opportunity possible. Yes it will cost more - but that cost should be borne by the data centre companies as they should be accountable for the total cost of ownership - not the taxpayer. Please offer the best environmental options to the state and let the state figure out how to get that inflated cost covered.
- I understand Waterford has a similar national heritage designation as Monticello and other gems. Would anyone run pylons through Monticello? No chance. It should be the same for Waterford. If we really can find no better alternative then run the cables underground within a 10 mile radius of Waterford.

- Our roads are not the best but they are improving in pockets, slowly. Heavy construction traffic will not help matters. Have you included the cost of maintaining and in some cases upgrading roads to support your projects?

Thanks for listening. I'm always happy to talk if I can help in any way.

Andy Harvey

Dear David Anders and the PJM Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal by PJM Interconnection for a new 500 kV transmission line in western Loudoun County. The proposed route goes through some of our most scenic and historic landscapes, over prime farmland and through important wildlife habitats.

As a farmer in Western Loudoun, this issue is very important to me as well as my neighbors, customers, and colleagues. The agricultural and agritourism sector is strong, but we must have undisturbed farmland and scenic views to continue what we are doing into the future. This proposed transmission line is a threat to our entire rural economic sector.

I understand that meeting the growing demand for power to data centers in Eastern Loudoun is a real challenge. But, this proposed route is likely to meet much public opposition and is already deemed to be a high constructibility risk - costing the ratepayers (here and in neighboring states) much more in the future. I encourage you to reconsider and choose an option along pre-existing transmission routes that will have lower environmental impact and will minimize the cost.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Katherine Collins

To David Anders and the PJM Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the PJM Interconnection proposal for a new 500 kV transmission line in western Loudoun County. The proposed route goes through some of our most scenic and historic landscapes, over prime farmland and through important wildlife habitats.

As a resident of Western Loudoun, this issue is very important to me as well as my neighbors, customers and colleagues. The agricultural and agritourism sector is strong, but we must have undisturbed farmland and scenic views to ensure our collective future. This proposed transmission line is a threat to our entire rural economic sector.

I understand that meeting the growing demand for power to data centers in Eastern Loudoun is a real challenge. However, this proposed route is likely to generate significant public opposition, and is already deemed to be a high constructibility risk - costing ratepayers here and in neighboring States much higher prices in the future. I encourage you to reconsider and choose an option along pre-existing transmission routes that will have lower environmental impact and minimized costs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Cathy Thorpe

To David Anders and the PJM Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal by PJM Interconnection for a new 500 kV transmission line in western Loudoun County. The proposed route goes through some of our most scenic and historic landscapes, over prime farmland and through important wildlife habitats.

As a resident of Western Loudoun, this issue is very important to me as well as my neighbors. The agricultural and agritourism sector is strong, and they must have undisturbed farmland and scenic views to continue what they are doing into the future. This proposed transmission line is a threat to our entire rural economic sector.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Beth Metzger

December 1, 2023

PJM Board
custsvc@pjm.com

Kenneth M. Kukovich
[REDACTED]
Lovettsville, VA [REDACTED]

Dear PJM Board of Managers:

I heartily endorse this opposition to your current proposals.

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the PJM proposal for a new greenfield 500 kV line in western Loudoun County, Virginia to be built by Florida-based NextEra (Proposal 2022-W3-853). Your maps indicate this line would transit historic and conservation areas around Mt. Gilead, Digges Valley, and Waterford National Historic Landmark along the Catoclin Ridge. There was a multi-year fight in the mid-2000s over a new transmission line in this same area that generated huge opposition and ultimately resulted in a compromise that put part of the new line under the existing right-of-way along the W&OD trail, with the rest aligned in a new right-of-way along an existing transportation corridor, namely the Leesburg Bypass.

In the intervening years, organized efforts to protect rural Loudoun and its farming, historic, equestrian, environmental/conservation, and agritourism interests have only grown stronger. There is a very mobilized public that will fight even harder over the placement of new transmission lines through undisturbed Loudoun countryside than they did in the mid-2000s.

The interested parties this time are much broader and span multiple counties. Loudoun has worked hard to promote tourism in the western half of the county, which is a major pillar in Loudoun's Comprehensive Plan. The quantity and quality of agritourism businesses in Loudoun outpaces all other jurisdictions in Virginia. Crisscrossing this area with transmission lines to meet energy demand elsewhere would hurt this vital sector of the economy.

We appreciate that PJM has a very difficult task ahead of it making up for anticipated electric power shortfalls, but we think community engagement and a broader range of alternative solutions and transmission technologies need to be considered. Meanwhile, other parts of Virginia are adding data centers, and old data centers will be modernizing with new computers that consume even more power, all further complicating PJM's task. The current path we are on is unsustainable and unscalable, and much needs to change in the way the region approves data centers and plans for the expected demand for electric power. We urge PJM to step back and reconsider its approach, with a goal of ensuring your mission to deliver power, but not at the cost of destroying the communities and other economic interests that are in your path.

Sincerely,


Kenneth M. Kukovich

cc: Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
Russet Perry
Geary Higgins

PJM Board of Managers
c/o Mr. David Anders (David.Anders@pjm.com)
Audubon, PA 19403

December 1, 2023

Subject: Proposed greenfield NextEra Transmission Line
Western Quadrant Segment of Proposal 2022-W3-853

Greetings Board Managers,

We have just last evening become aware of a proposal for a new greenfield 500 kV line that would pass *within one mile* of our residential neighborhood community located near Rte. 287 (Berlin Turnpike) and Morrisonville Road in western Loudoun County. It would be built by Florida-based NextEra – Proposal 2022-W3-853.

Our community is surrounded by a large number of other residential communities, as well as farms, farm-based wineries and breweries, equine training, stabling and exercise facilities, therapeutic riding services, many historic homes and one of the state's finest historic districts of Waterford. As a rural area, of course, we also live among a wide range of fragile creeks and streams, forests and grasslands that make up a very precious and irreplaceable ecology.

Our western Loudoun area is an integral part of our overall County. We appreciate the vitality of the eastern areas in Loudoun and understand that its economic development needs to be served with additional power. However, *this must not be done at the expense of the western area* which provides essential economic diversification and balance to the County through very strong agrobusiness and tourism sectors.

The proposed greenfield line would decisively injure this balance, extinguish many vital businesses and livelihoods, and destroy a substantial part of its ecology.

We appreciate that PJM has a difficult task ahead to make up for anticipated power shortfalls derived from Loudoun's data center industry. We have been associated with the LREG community stakeholder meetings for the Wishing Star to Mars and Aspen to Golden projects, and understand the methodical approach taken in these matters and efforts to consider alternatives by Dominion Power and PJM.

In this spirit, we believe that the choice by PJM of the NextEra Proposal is *far from the least cost solution among the proposals under consideration* given -

- its high costs to Loudoun residences, the economy and ecology as referred to above,
- difficulties in land acquisition and construction,
- an unlikely qualification for eminent domain given its economic development objective,
- environmental constraints,
- a strong public opposition that is already growing and likely to substantially exceed the one of a decade ago over the 230 kV line along Rte 7,
- the likely demands on the part of the local community to bury the proposed line, and
- all of the delays that would ensue as a consequence of these factors - and no doubt be of serious concern on the part of our data center industry in Loudoun.

We consequently request that PJM, in its upcoming Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee meeting on Tuesday December 5,

- (1) deny the proposed routing by NextEra based on these development risks and embedded costs;

- (2) give deeper consideration to other proposals, in particular routings through Doubs, that will use more existing rights of way, offer similar performance and scope in terms of length and ratings, and be far less likely to experience risks and delays of the NextEra proposal; and
- (3) following the December 5 meeting, make readily available to all western Loudoun residential, business and environmental groups a complete set of publicly available information on Proposal 2022-W3-853, precedent to possible further requests as needed through due process.

Thank you for your consideration,

Best regards,

James Hanna and Joan Berardo

To David Anders and the PJM Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal by PJM Interconnection for a new 500 kV transmission line in western Loudoun County. The proposed route goes through some of our most scenic and historic landscapes, over prime farmland and through important wildlife habitats.

As a resident and farmer of Western Loudoun, this issue is very important to me as well as my neighbors, customers and colleagues. The agricultural and agritourism sector is strong, but we must have undisturbed farmland and scenic views to continue what we are doing into the future. This proposed transmission line is a threat to our entire rural economic sector.

I understand that meeting the growing demand for power to data centers in Eastern Loudoun is a real challenge. But, this proposed route is likely to meet much public opposition and is already deemed to be a high constructibility risk - costing the ratepayers (here and in neighboring states) much more in the future. I encourage you to reconsider and choose an option along pre-existing transmission routes that will have lower environmental impact and will minimize the cost.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Judi Lainer

Leesburg



Post Office Box 142 • Waterford, Virginia 20197 • 540-882-3018
www.waterfordfoundation.org • info@waterfordfoundation.org

December 1, 2023

Mr. David Anders, Secretary
PJM Board of Managers

Mr. Anders,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Waterford Foundation in Waterford, Virginia. We have learned of the PJM's recommendation to build a new power transmission line through property owned by the Waterford Foundation. We understand the Board will be voting on selected projects on December 11 and we wanted the Board to be aware of our serious concerns with your proposed path for the transmission line.

Waterford is a National Historic Landmark, which the US Department of Interior puts on a par with Mount Vernon and Monticello. In the 2023 affirmation of our Landmark status that was originally granted in 1970, the nomination report noted the following about Waterford's historic importance to the nation:

"As a result of almost a century of historic preservation efforts, the Waterford Historic District retains a high level of integrity—including integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Beyond the remarkably well-preserved architecture in the village core, Waterford's natural features—including hedgerows, tree lines, waterways, and viewsheds—have also been sensitively conserved and continue to represent an authentic rural agricultural service village set within farmlands. Additionally, beyond the preservation of its historic resources, the very limited modern infill, especially within the historic core, is notable. The integrity of the district is, in fact, due as much to the lack of twentieth and twenty-first century development in the village core and surrounding agricultural lands as it is to the high degree of integrity found in the individual historic buildings. Waterford's exceptional significance is thus partially derived from its overall appearance—including evocative viewsheds within and outside the village in nearly every direction. The intact views and vistas add greatly to the authentic feel of a rural village as it might have appeared during the nineteenth century, featuring only houses, a few small businesses in the village core, and historic farms and

The mission of the Waterford Foundation, Inc., is to preserve the historic buildings and the open spaces of the National Historic Landmark District of Waterford, Virginia; and through education, to increase the public's knowledge of life and work in an early American rural community.

meadows enveloping the village core. As a result, the Waterford Historic District's integrity is exceptionally high."

Power lines that are over 300 feet tall, in a swath spanning 30 to 50 feet wide would destroy that precious integrity and violate the protective easement on that land held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. The Waterford Foundation strongly opposes the PJM's plan. It is important to note that the Virginia State Constitution prohibits the use of eminent domain seizure for the purposes of economic development, which is clearly the intent of this project.

The Foundation will take any steps necessary to protect its eased and protected land and historic viewshed as this process proceeds. Waterford hosts tens of thousands of visitors each year who come to experience and learn from the preserved 19th century village and surrounding open spaces.

We assume the PJM was unaware that they were projecting construction of this line through a National Historic Landmark and that once you are aware of the significance of this historic site you will adjust your plans accordingly.

Respectfully,



Susan Manch
President, Waterford Foundation Board of Directors

cc.

Kathryn G. Smith, National Historic Landmarks & National Register Coordinator
National Park Service

Erika Richardson, Assistant Director, Piedmont Region, Virginia Outdoors
Foundation

Stephanie Thompson, Executive Director, Waterford Foundation

Abigail Zurfluh, Historic Preservation Director, Waterford Foundation

Waterford Foundation Board of Directors

November 17, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The PJM Board of Managers
Mark Takahashi, Chairman and
Manu Asthana, PJM President and CEO
PJM Interconnection L.L.C.
2750 Monroe Boulevard
Audubon, Pennsylvania 19408

RE: PJM 2022 Window 3 Project Approval

Dear Board Members,

The PJM TEAC's project recommendation to solve 2022 Window 3 issues does a disservice to all of PJM's 65 million ratepayers and you should not approve it.

PJM's plan is unlikely to be completed and will result in higher electric rates

PJM does not have a backup plan for the possibility that one or more segments of its plan cannot be built. Upon questioning, PJM staff said it would leave that problem on the doorstep of the designated entities. When certain segments are not approved, it makes other segments unnecessary. PJM staff is behaving like a Pollyanna, refusing to acknowledge the certainty that its plan cannot be fully constructed as proposed. This could lead to abandoned projects and increased rates for consumers, who will be forced to pay for project segments that never connect and are never built.

PJM staff has not shared any backup plan to maintain reliability and/or serve new load in the event that the recommended projects are not built by the targeted in-service dates. As more baseload generation retires prematurely but is not replaced with equivalent new generation, PJM is pushed closer and closer to grid failure. PJM would not be realistic, or even erring on the side of caution, to ensure continued reliability by relying solely on a massive new transmission build out that has an unlikely chance of success.

In addition, PJM staff's assignment of hard to site greenfield projects to non-incumbents will only delay and complicate approvals. It is likely these projects cannot be built at all, and certainly not by entities unfamiliar with the impacted communities and state regulators involved. Like any transmission project on new easements, greenfield projects have a very low chance of approval and an almost certain chance of creating entrenched community and political opposition that leads to delay and abandonment.

The recommended plan is indisputably PJM's biggest transmission endeavor to date. PJM's recent track record of getting big projects approved and built is shockingly poor. Beginning with the PATH and MAPP project cancellations in 2012, several other large PJM projects have since been rejected and abandoned. There was the Monmouth County Reliability Project, rejected by

the NJ BPU in 2018. There was the Transource Independence Energy Connection, rejected by the PA PUC in 2021. Community and political opposition drove all of these cancellations.

The shedding of over 11,000 MW of baseload generation combined with more than 7,500 MW of new data center load is a serious threat to not only the reliability of the grid, but to the pocketbooks of the 65 million consumers who depend on it. It's the biggest threat PJM has ever faced. Such an enormous problem deserves a new approach. The new data centers in Northern Virginia provide benefit to some of the richest companies in the world, such as Amazon, Google and Facebook. The closing of baseload generators stems from the energy policies of certain states. But yet the entire region is being asked to fund a solution to this grid emergency created by the powerful few. It is unjust and unreasonable to place the costs and the impacts on portions of the region that will not benefit. If current planning and cost allocation rules require this travesty, then it's time to change them because they have become unjust and unreasonable.

The Law of the Instrument is a cognitive bias that is often expressed with the phrase, "If the only tool you have is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail." PJM's transmission planning epitomizes the Law of the Instrument because it prioritizes transmission as the only possible solution. The PJM Market Monitor has been recommending for the past 10 years that PJM create "...a mechanism to permit a direct comparison, or competition, between transmission and generation alternatives, including which alternative is less costly and who bears the risks associated with each alternative." (2023 Quarterly State of the Market Report for PJM: January through September, Pg. 719). PJM does not allow the market to work to drive the building of new generation in areas experiencing increased load or generation retirements. If PJM had adopted the Market Monitor's recommendation in 2013, PJM wouldn't be planning more than \$5B worth of transmission as the only solution to solve generation retirements and data center load. PJM must now develop the recommended mechanism in order to allow for beneficial competition between transmission and generation to solve 2022 Window 3. The Board of Managers should reject the TEAC recommendation and order a new evaluation that compares new generation near load with new transmission to other states in the region in order to find the least cost, least impactful, solution for PJM's ratepayers.

PJM's Plan is Destructive to Clean Energy and Environmental Justice Progress

While governments and consumers are asking for cleaner power generation, PJM's plan doubles down on fossil fuels by importing excess electricity from West Virginia and Pennsylvania. West Virginia and Pennsylvania still produce the majority of their electricity from coal and natural gas. Instead of cleaning up the environment in PJM states, increased dependence on fossil fuels actually increases pollution and regional haze. It makes no sense to close coal-fired plants in Maryland like Brandon Shores and Wagner, only to replace their supply with electricity from coal-fired plants in West Virginia. It's just as dirty, except it's in someone else's back yard and requires \$5B of new transmission that consumers will have to pay for.

By building new transmission to old coal plants, PJM ignores the questionable longevity of these existing generators under the EPA's Clean Power Plan, or other state or federal clean energy legislation. The generators may retire before the new transmission line to the west is completed; creating a stranded asset that is not useful to the ratepayers who continue to pay for it. Certainly

the expected life of the coal-fired generators is much shorter than the 40-year life of new transmission. New transmission to old power stations on the verge of retirement makes no sense.

PJM's plan takes a huge step backwards for environmental justice and equity. While wealthy counties in the Washington, D.C. suburbs would increase their economic development, jobs and prosperity with new energy hog data centers, struggling communities in West Virginia face increased pollution from mining and burning coal to produce additional electricity to serve those data centers. West Virginians would also sacrifice their homes and working land to make way for new transmission lines to serve the data centers. As the final insult, West Virginia's consumers would have to pay for PJM's new transmission plan that hurts their own communities while benefitting politically connected communities elsewhere.

There has to be a better solution. This plan should be sent back to the TEAC with recommendations to develop a different plan that relies on new generation sources closer to load and produces less burden on communities that will not benefit, and therefore stands a much better chance of being approved and built in time to maintain reliability and serve new customers.

Any new transmission that cannot be constructed fully in existing rights-of-way must be buried within existing road, rail or other public rights-of-way. PJM must consider the use of buried HVDC along existing transportation corridors to transmit electricity from substations in the west, such as 502 Junction, to new substations in Loudoun County's Data Center Alley. HVDC transmits more power with less line loss in situations where electricity is transmitted long distances without serving load along the way. Buried HVDC on existing rights-of-way reduces project risk from community opposition, delay, or cancellation. While buried HVDC may be more expensive up front, it produces considerable savings. Buried HVDC on existing easements does not require new land acquisition. It avoids public relations and state regulatory battles fueled by community opposition. Time is money and a project that can be built on time and on budget because there is no opposition creates an enormous savings. After buried HVDC is constructed on existing road and rail easements, it does not require perpetual vegetation management, and it is not subject to weather-related damage or sabotage. Outages are less frequent than with overhead transmission and the cost of just one outage caused by overhead line vulnerabilities can easily exceed the increased costs of constructing buried HVDC. Many transmission developers have found that the savings produced by buried HVDC obviates its higher up front cost.

PJM's TEAC Process

PJM's Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee has engaged in what I believe to be a deliberate campaign to misrepresent new transmission routes, while simultaneously attempting to thwart participation by non-member stakeholders. PJM's maps of proposed projects continually misrepresented new greenfield transmission line proposals as brownfield. Maps were also inaccurate and did not match the written route narratives submitted by the proposing entities. PJM went through so many revisions to its maps that I have lost count. Is PJM's mapping staff really that incompetent, or was the map debacle just a ruse to draw attention to the maps, instead of substantive comment?

I tried to discuss the issue of new easements adjacent to existing transmission lines at length with PJM staff because they insisted these new developments are “brownfield” developments. Brownfield developments are those that are entirely contained on existing easements. Anything that requires new easements, in whole or in part, is greenfield development. Adding additional transmission to existing corridors can actually be more destructive than greenfield routes in areas without existing transmission. The reason for this is that new communities have been built up along the edges of transmission easements that have existed for a number of years, even decades. The existing easements are hemmed in on both sides by new homes, schools, fire stations, churches, businesses, parks, and other developments. Creating a new transmission corridor on a new easement directly adjacent to the existing corridor will require the destruction of the existing community. This is not brownfield development. In contrast, a new line on a greenfield easement can be carefully sited to avoid homes, schools, fire stations, churches, parks and businesses. Brownfield can be, and often is, more destructive to host communities than greenfield.

After my provision of a written example of destructive brownfield siting (along with aerial photo), PJM staff said that they would be creating a new category for the maps to differentiate greenfield next to existing lines from brownfield. This appeared in one set of maps, but has since been eliminated, with PJM reverting back to painting all its new corridors as “brownfield or next to existing ROW.” Who is PJM trying to fool with this misrepresentation? Is it the communities who will host new lines? Or is it the Board of Managers, who may approve new transmission projects without full knowledge of the destruction they may cause to impacted communities because they have been incorrectly informed that the majority of the projects are brownfield? PJM staff is making an incorrect presumption that expanding existing corridors with new easements is preferable to greenfield lines, a view that is not shared by host communities. Since all opposition stems from community impact, PJM’s incorrect presumption does not serve to lessen opposition. It only serves to misinform the Board of Managers.

At the August TEAC meeting, I asked how impacted communities could share vital information about new or expanded easements that could be incorporated into the constructability reports to inform determination of risk. I was told that the public could comment verbally during PJM’s monthly TEAC meetings, a process that is not user friendly. Many people had difficulty signing up for TEAC meetings, and even when they managed to crack that nut, they were faced with sitting through many hours of the meeting waiting for an opportunity to comment, as the discussion of these new projects was always the last item on the agenda. I asked that PJM accept written comment from the public instead. PJM staff either did not answer my emails, or took weeks to do so. By the time PJM staff finally agreed to accept written comments, they told me we needed to hurry up and submit comments because the contractor was finalizing its constructability report. PJM staff managed to delay long enough to prevent all but the most determined commenters from weighing in. This is not an open and inclusive stakeholder process. In fact, it thwarts stakeholder participation.

Once the constructability studies were completed, PJM staff refused to share them, preferring to share only a table with risk determinations, and not the considerations that went into them. It appears that even that table has been manipulated to change the results presented from meeting

to meeting, with risk determinations changing without notice or explanation. I believe that the constructability studies are just as manipulated as the rest of PJM's process and urge the Board of Managers to review them carefully. PJM has recommended some of the riskiest projects for the Board's approval. Someone needs to ask them why.

Local impacts

The West project in Jefferson County, WV was presented as a preferred solution submitted by NextEra Energy Transmission to wreck and rebuild an existing 138kV line underneath a new 500kV transmission project. As proposed, this project would expand the existing easement and construct new, larger lattice towers. It was stated that this project would deviate from the existing 138kV easement in certain areas and create a completely new easement for the new 500kV line. This proposal was never accurately represented on PJM's maps, which characterized the entire project in Jefferson County as brownfield. At the Oct. 31 TEAC, PJM staff reassigned the project to FirstEnergy, without explanation. We in Jefferson County cannot determine how FirstEnergy will approach it, how much existing easements must be expanded, or where new easements are expected to go. FirstEnergy has been awarded a project it can create in the future to suit its needs, not one that has been properly evaluated and shared with the public.

The existing FirstEnergy 138kV transmission line running across Jefferson County from west to east has been in place for decades. In some areas, it parallels an existing 500kV line owned by Dominion that was rebuilt, completely within the existing easement, around 2012. Since the original construction of the lines on this combined right-of-way decades ago, new development has been built bordering it, limiting the ability to expand without causing considerable destruction of the built community. The landowners along the easement don't consider this easement expansion and addition of larger structures to be brownfield development.

FirstEnergy's Transmission Rights-of-Way Restrictions

<https://www.firstenergycorp.com/help/safety/real-estate-power-lines/transmission-right-of-way.html>) prohibit the following items in its easements: buildings, lighting fixtures, signs, billboards, swimming pools, decks, flag posts, sheds, barns, garages, playgrounds, fences or other structures. As well, septic systems, leach beds, and/ or wells are not permitted within a FirstEnergy transmission right-of-way. Expanded easements will undoubtedly run into these structures on adjoining property, requiring their removal. Depending on the size of the lot, it may not be possible to move or reconstruct them on the remainder. Expanding the existing easement will cause considerable damage to host properties.

Several new utility-scale solar generation facilities have been approved adjacent to the existing easement, along with an interconnection to the 138kV line. Some of these facilities are currently being developed, with panels constructed directly adjacent to the existing easement. Depending on the expansion of the easement, many brand new panels may have to be removed. In addition, the existing 138kV line will have to be taken out of service for extended periods of time to allow for the demolition and rebuild. When asked how these generators would be able to transmit the energy they produce while the transmission project is offline, PJM staff did not have an answer.

During its Oct. 3 TEAC, PJM staff indicated that they had failed to recommend certain proposed projects due to historic opposition to a previous transmission project in the same area (TrAILCo). However, PJM's consideration of historic opposition was not applied equally to other areas that have successfully opposed new transmission in the past. Jefferson County formed vehement and entrenched opposition to the PATH project between 2008-2012. That opposition was a factor in the PATH's project's ultimate cancellation by PJM. The proposed PATH project used the exact same route through Jefferson County that is now being recommended for PJM's new 500-kV project. A dozen years is not long enough for impacted communities to forget what happened last time. The only difference between the TrAILCo opposition in Virginia in 2007 and the PATH opposition in West Virginia in 2010 is the deep pockets and political connections of the opposing community. Is PJM afraid of engaging important, well-funded opposition in one state, and instead preferring to engage less politically connected and funded opposition in another? This is the epitome of environmental injustice, where disadvantaged communities are expected to accept damaging new infrastructure over and over again.

The proposed 500-kV project in Jefferson County is not on a direct route to the data centers in Northern Virginia that need a new power supply. Instead it is an unnecessary and destructive diversion that seems to capitalize on an existing transmission line crossing of the Appalachian Trail near the Virginia border. If not for that existing crossing, a more direct route for this project could be utilized. Jefferson County is being sacrificed to prevent a new crossing over the Trail even being proposed. Perhaps PJM believes that it will attract less opposition by destroying Jefferson County than it would for designated entities to ask the National Park Service to permit a less costly and less invasive new crossing further south. We in Jefferson County object to having this project cross our county at all.

Conclusion

I ask that PJM's Board of Managers short-circuit PJM staff's double-time march toward approval of these new projects on December 11 and allow additional time for meaningful public consultation and comment carried out through a user-friendly process. In addition, I ask that PJM present true and correct information about these projects, and their intended routes and risks, to both the public and the Board of Managers before approval. Please do not approve the recommended 2022 Window 3 projects on December 11.

Sincerely,

Keryn Newman

Shepherdstown, WV

PJM Board Of Managers,

I live in a small rural Hamlet just south of the Town of Lovettsville, Virginia and I am also a volunteer at the Sweet Run State Park on the east side of the Blue Ridge abutting the Appalachian Trail. When I saw the proposal to expand the current right of way over the trail, through the Park, over Short Hill Mountain, then literally bisect the Catoctin District with a new build, I actually thought it was a joke. How could anyone actually consider putting a 500kV line and towers through the heart of Loudoun County's agri-tourism district filled with horse farms, vineyards, and wedding venues? The proposed path depicted on the PEC interactive map actually runs through the Hamlet's Open Space Easement (used as wildlife habitat), along my back fence, over the original 18th century farmhouse (one of the few original 1700's Patent Houses still standing), then directly over our community lake. Beelzebub couldn't have done more to tear the soul of our community that this does.

I know the challenges to move power from the fossil fueled power plants out west to the proposed and existing data centers east of here. I have seen the projections of increased consumption and they are indeed staggering and the rise of artificial intelligence will increase consumption exponentially. That being said, I get the feeling that someone just looked at an area on a map seemingly void of transmission lines and decided this would be a great spot to grab some right of way.

So, I just wanted to state, in case you have any misconceptions about the people who inhabit the Catoctin District, that as a whole, they are some of the most educated, wealthy, and passionate about their land, you may have ever encountered. The opposition here will be unrelenting. I ask you to oppose it as well.

Please consider my comments in making your decision.

Sincerely

David Carmichael

Dear PJM Board of Managers:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the PJM proposal for a new greenfield 500 kV line in western Loudoun County, Virginia to be built by Florida-based NextEra (Proposal 2022-W3-853).

Your maps indicate this line would transit historic and conservation areas around Mt. Gilead, Digges Valley, and Waterford National Historic Landmark (this property's status is the same Monticello and Mt. Vernon) along the Catoctin Ridge. There was a multi-year fight in the mid-2000s over a new transmission line in this same area that generated huge opposition and ultimately resulted in a compromise that put part of the new line under the existing right-of-way along the W&OD trail, with the rest aligned in a new right-of-way along an existing transportation corridor, namely the Leesburg Bypass.

In the intervening years, organized efforts to protect rural Loudoun and its farming, historic,

equestrian, environmental/conservation, and agritourism interests have only grown stronger. There is a very mobilized public that will fight even harder over the placement of new transmission lines through undisturbed Loudoun countryside than they did in the mid-2000s.

The interested parties this time are much broader and span multiple counties. Loudoun has worked hard to promote tourism in the western half of the county, which is a major pillar in Loudoun's Comprehensive Plan. The quantity and quality of agritourism businesses in Loudoun outpaces all other jurisdictions in Virginia (I am proud to include our farm amongst the list of Loudoun ag businesses). Crisscrossing this area with transmission lines to meet energy demand elsewhere would hurt this vital sector of the economy.

We appreciate that PJM has a very difficult task ahead of it making up for anticipated electric power shortfalls, but we think **community engagement and a broader range of alternative solutions and transmission technologies need to be considered**. Meanwhile, other parts of Virginia are adding data centers, and old data centers will be modernizing with new computers that consume even more power, all further complicating PJM's task. The current path we are on is unsustainable and unsealable, and much needs to change in the way the region approves data centers and plans for the expected demand for electric power. We urge PJM to step back and reconsider its approach, with a goal of ensuring your mission to deliver power, but not at the cost of destroying the communities and other economic interests that are in your path.

Regards,

Tracy

Tracy Kirkman

Devilsbliss Farm/Vineyard

To David Anders and the PJM Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal by PJM Interconnection for a new 500 kV transmission line in western Loudoun County. The proposed route goes through prime farmland, historic landscapes and important habitat all of which are integral to the important rural economy as well as the unique character of Loudoun county.

As a resident and farmer in Western Loudoun, and a member of a family who has lived and farmed this land since before the American Revolution this issue is very important to me as well as my neighbors, customers and fellow farmers and small business owners. The agricultural and agritourism sector is strong in our area, but that requires undisturbed farmland and scenic views to continue and the proposed transmission line is a direct threat to our entire rural economic sector.

Meeting the growing demand for power to data centers in Eastern Loudoun is an ongoing challenge, but I strongly encourage you to reconsider the current proposal and choose a route along pre-existing transmission routes that will have lower environmental impact, will adversely affect fewer farms and businesses, and will minimize the cost.

This proposed route is likely to meet much public opposition in our area and is already deemed to be a high constructibility risk - costing the ratepayers (here and in neighboring states) much more in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Molly Kroiz

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Molly Kroiz  
Owner & Cheesemaker  
Georges Mill Farm Artisan Cheese

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Good Afternoon David Anders and the PJM Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal by PJM Interconnection for a new 500 kV transmission line in western Loudoun County. The proposed route goes through some of our most scenic and historic landscapes, over prime farmland and through important wildlife habitats. I totally understand the need, but come down Rt. 7 or a different more developed area.

As a resident and business owner in Western Loudoun, this issue is very important to me as well as my neighbors, customers and colleagues. The agricultural and agritourism sector is strong, but we must have undisturbed farmland and scenic views to continue what we are doing into the future. This proposed transmission line is a threat to our entire rural economic sector.

I understand that meeting the growing demand for power to data centers in Eastern Loudoun is a real challenge. But, this proposed route is likely to meet much public opposition and is already deemed to be a high constructibility risk - costing the ratepayers (here and in neighboring states) much more in the future. I encourage you to reconsider and choose an option along pre-existing transmission routes that will have lower environmental impact and will minimize the cost.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen Grant

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Hello -

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal by PJM Interconnection for a new 500 kV transmission line in western Loudoun County. The proposed route would go through some of the most treasured historic landscapes, villages, wildlife habitats and important farmlands in Loudoun. Western Loudoun is at a critical stage of development where we are in danger of losing the beautiful open spaces, rolling hills, thriving farms, wineries and breweries, and more that attract so many visitors from within the state and beyond. The proposed transmission route is a direct threat to the whole rural economic sector in Loudoun County.

This route is likely to meet very strong local opposition. The route is already deemed to be a high risk that will cost the ratepayers (here and in neighboring states) much more in the future. I strongly encourage you to reconsider and choose an option along existing transmission routes that will have lower environmental impact and will minimize the cost.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

- Dominic Mishurny-Santini  
Lucketts, VA

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Mr. Anders,

I live in Lovettsville at \_\_\_\_\_. There is a proposed 500kV transmission line to go through Catoctin. I believe it would be going smack dab into the middle of my 13 home, quite, rural hamlet neighborhood. I vehemently oppose this endeavor. I've lived in my home for over 20 years. Raised my children in this quite - Normal Rockwell painting - of a community and the thought of transmission lines going through my neighborhood is appalling. For one thing, my home equity value would plummet. I'm a single woman looking at retirement at some point and rely on the sell of my home to do so. I was the first to purchase a home in my hamlet. It was once a beautiful farm. The original farm house still stands. We have kept a lot of natural space as common area that we maintain. The neighborhood is a place to raise children and animals. On one of the larger parcels are kept horses. We have trails to ride on or walk through. I moved here to raise my children away from Leesburg so that they had nature and hunting and a different kind of life then I had growing up in Seattle.

I ask that you please, please, please not let this happen to the home and neighborhood that I love so dearly. That I want my new grandson to enjoy fishing in our pond and taking hikes through our woods. Pet the horses across the street. Enjoy a little get away at grandmas.

Could you imagine buying a home that, at the time you could barely afford, to enrich your children's lives to then have a large company decide they want to build near you and they need to invade your beautiful property to do it? To loose equity in your home and ruin your life in such a way? To feel like you may have no say or recourse? That its just going to be forced upon you for the sake of a large company wanting to make more money?

Again, please don't let this thing happen to me or my neighbors. When I say "ruin my life" I really do feel this is what it will do. Especially financially.

Thank you for listening to my plea. I just hope it resonates with you.

*SheilaMarie Douglasson*

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I am writing to express my strong opposition to your proposed 500kV line in Western Loudoun County, to be built by Florida-based NextEra (Proposal 2022-W3-853). The proposed lines and maps provided indicate it would transit historic and conservation areas, including that in which I and my family live, in the Waterford National Historic Landmark area along the Catoctin Ridge. This is our home. I do not want high voltage power lines in the home which I built intentionally away from these. These lines would be within 1.5 miles from my home, and only slightly further from my children's school. Destroying a piece of our national history, a preserved respite from urbanization, and the vitality of rural communities, should be antithetical to your company's values.

You may be unaware but Waterford is a Loudoun County Historic and Cultural Conservation Site, on the National Register of Historic Places, and the entire village and surrounding farmland—including where your proposed line transits—was designated a National Historic Landmark District, one of only three such landmarks in the entire United States. The Department of Education writes of Waterford and its Quaker history, "the village has changed so little in shape and size that founder Amos Janney would find it recognizable. He could stroll from his 1733 home to the area of his original mill and then on to the Quaker meeting house he founded in 1741." Phillips Farm Interpretive Hiking Trail, the "open" land over which proposed lines would fall/skirt serves the public as a historic/education walk, Civil War campsite, and as a Monarch Way Station. The Waterford 2<sup>nd</sup> Street School is used regularly for students throughout Loudoun as part of a living-history program that educates students about the experience of African American children attending this one-room school in the 1800's. My hope in educating you about the history of our village is to show you the massive impact of these lines in what we have managed to preserve for hundreds of years and share with our Nation as irreplaceable living snapshots of our history. Imagine immersing yourself and your children in this living history, looking up, and staring at 500kV lines.

Waterford survives on the tourism it draws from its historic preservation and natural surroundings, which would be devastated by high voltage power lines. The family-owned bed and breakfasts, wineries, and stables along our road, Old Wheatland, that draw families looking to escape to pristine rural Waterford and hike the untouched preserved lands, would be put out of business. Installing high power lines is not a new proposal for this area and I assure you that it continues to be met with strong resistance. Organized efforts to protect rural western Loudoun and its historic, farming, equestrian, environmental, and agrotourism continue to grow even stronger and there is a highly mobilized public that will fight even harder against the placement of new transmission lines through undisturbed Loudoun countryside than they did in prior years. Western Loudoun has worked hard to promote agritourism, and the quantity and quality of agritourism business in Loudoun outpaces all other jurisdictions in Virginia. This area is a major pillar of Loudoun's Comprehensive Plan and crisscrossing this area with transmission lines to meet energy demands elsewhere would devastate an entire thriving economic sector.

I appreciate that PJM has been tasked with feeding the energy needs of eastern Loudoun and shortfalls from the data centers, but alternative solutions/routes and other technologies should be a first option, not a last, as the impact on western Loudoun is so severe. The current path we are on is unsustainable and needs a change in the way the region approves data centers and plans for electrical power. We urge you to step back and reconsider your approach more holistically to this enduring problem. The need for datacenter power will only continue to increase, these lines provide no long-term solution, they are just a temporary fix at best, yet they would severely impact local communities—my community—and generations of agricultural families' livelihoods.

I have included a link to the National Park Service's information on Waterford:

<https://www.nps.gov/places/waterford-historic-district.htm>

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Rachel Fischer  
Waterford, VA resident.

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Dear Mr. Anders,

I am writing concerning the 2022 window 3 proposal. I have very strong opposition to the PJM proposal for a new greenfield 500 kV line in western Loudoun County, VA to be built by Florida based NextEra (Proposal 2022-W3-853). I hope you will understand how this proposed power line will disrupt my family's life.

We live in the \_\_\_\_\_ Community, off of Route 9, and will have our beautiful western views marred by the power lines. Our neighbors will have their properties dissected by the power lines. Our local produce markets will no longer have the beautiful country views that draw the tourists who help to sustain agribusinesses. Not only will our visual quality of life decline, we will most likely see our taxes and electricity rates soar.

We purchased our home on five acres in Western Loudoun 21 years ago, and have enjoyed watching the agricultural tourism businesses bloom. In fact, as a Marketing and Business teacher at Loudoun Valley High School, I taught a unit on Loudoun Tourism and had the students research how important our farms, wineries, and historic buildings are to bringing visitors and tourism dollars to Western Loudoun. The students studied the Loudoun comprehensive plan, which includes tourism as a major pillar of our economy. Seeing how our community has moved from dairy farming to Agribusinesses allowed the students to understand how progress and improvements can be made, without losing the heritage and beauty of our area. Large Transmission lines crisscrossing the area go against the lessons the students learned, and would have a major, negative impact on our community and our economy.

Of course we have concern for the effects the large power lines will have on the value of our homes. My family has enjoyed living in Western Loudoun for two decades, and we host extended family gatherings frequently to allow others to enjoy our beautiful area. We have seen how new homeowners are drawn here by the beauty of the surrounding area. Visitors and future homeowners come to Western Loudoun for the variety of agribusinesses that provide entertainment, provide jobs for our students and young

workers, and play a major role in our economy. The proposed power line would disturb or destroy much of what Western Loudoun is known for.

In the early 2000's, we supported the successful efforts to create a compromise to place new power lines along the Leesburg Bypass instead of decimating the beautiful tree canopies along the W&OD trail. Our hope is that you will be able to model that compromise, and look at a broader range of alternative solutions and transmission technologies. We firmly believe there is a way to deliver power to Eastern Loudoun without destroying homes, communities and agribusinesses in the path of the power lines. Our goal is to preserve the Loudoun Countryside for the enjoyment not only of those who live here, but also for those who visit. Our hope is that a lower impact and lower risk option can be selected to minimize the cost burdens involved for the members of our community.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Leesa Unger Bell  
Educator (Retired)  
Hamilton, VA

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Dear Sir/Madam, I understand Loudoun County is considering putting up new high power transmission lines along with the huge and invasive structures to support them. I have lived in Western Loudoun County (Lovettsville) for the past 23 years. My family owns a horse farm business. This proposal would put us out of business. I am totally against these power lines, not only because it will destroy our business, but also because of the negative health implications for people and horses, along with the terrible damage it will do to the beauty of western Loudoun County. Please note the beautiful scenes from our farm below.

**PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT ANY NEW HIGH TRANSMISSION POWER LINES IN WESTERN LOUDOUN COUNTY!**

Jodi Benedict  
Lovettsville, VA

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December 1, 2023

David Anders  
PJM Committee Secretary

Dear Mr. Anders:

I am writing to express my strongest opposition to the current proposal to extend a new power transmission line across western Loudoun County. This proposal would significantly harm, and likely destroy, our small business, Genesis Group LLC, that has been in operation for over 24 years providing jobs to the local community.

Apart from providing my family's livelihood, the company currently employs 5 full time employees and 2 part time positions in a facility which jointly houses our law firm and agriculture businesses (dressage facility). Using local workers, Genesis invested its resources 20 years ago to build a million-dollar facility with a modern large indoor arena, office tower, and multiple outdoor dressage arenas. All of this will be lost. The proposed transmission path, with its associated towers and power lines, would run directly through our facility in Lovettsville, VA. The possibility of the plan has already caused much concern with our clients re its potential impact both aesthetically and practically on our activities. If approved the lost revenues to our agriculture business, and impact upon our employees, will likely cause us to cease operations. That means those jobs and the families they support will be lost. I am confident there will be many other small businesses similarly affected by this proposal in the coming months.

The economic and cultural impact upon all western Loudoun County will be disastrous for those of us situated in the county, but also to the power supply goals you are seeking in considering the plan. As proposed, the new transmission line has high constructability risk due to anticipated lengthy regulatory process, public opposition, construction difficulty, environmental constraints, and expensive/difficult property acquisition, which will impact the cost and schedule of the proposed project. A lower impact and low risk option should be selected to minimize costs, as well as address the concerns local homeowners and businesses are raising against the project.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Benedict  
Attorney At Law/Managing Partner  
Genesis Group LLC

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November 15, 2023

Dear Members Committee;

I am writing on behalf of myself and fellow constitutes in my community of Waterford Hamlet in Lovettsville, VA. Last week we became aware of a proposed line of enormous new transmission towers to be run through our community; literally in my side yard.

The purpose of the line is obvious; to fulfill the data center need for more power than Dominion can produce within our state, therefore it needs to be imported from neighboring states. The problem arises from permits being granted for these data centers to be built without the means to support them being written in the business plan. The new lines that PJM are proposing to install would be devastating to our community, our way of living, our ecosystem, and our peaceful, private existence that we pay LARGE tax dollars to enjoy.

This current threat of proposed lines is my immediate concern. I am a widow with two children. This property I shared with my deceased husband and it is his legacy. The possibility of having towers two hundred feet over my head and my pond simply cannot happen. This proposed line

is only a band aid to help alleviate a situation that needs a true solution of alternative power sources and limited building permits (with means to support these structures).

The secrecy and lack of transparency which will affect so many in the north western part of our county is astonishing. I attended the Piedmont Environmental Council meeting in Warrenton last night and from what I can see, Loudoun is way behind on being proactive on this matter. My neighborhood is going to rally. We are going door to door. We are going to social media. We will get the word out to protect our properties. Go along the mountain. Go along Route 287 and Route 7 but we will not agree to going through our open fields and right through my back yard.

Not only is this not transparent morally but economically we will be facing increased cost to help pay for this endeavor. So not only do you want us to look at these monstrosities, we are in essence literally paying for them. FIND ANOTHER WAY.

No one is reading anything they don't already know here. I don't need to go into the numbers of gigawatts, back up diesel generators and their pollution, needing to overhaul our electric rate structure, or the unreliability of ALL of it. I'm simply asking, nope I'm begging, don't ruin our land, our homesteads, our tranquility, our paid for by hard earned money property, with this expansion through our Hamlet on Johnson Farm Lane and White Marsh Lane. Listen to the people, please, that's all we are asking.

Please don't hesitate to contact me. I will happily explain my position even further if needed

Sincerely,

Sara Miller Leary

Lovettsville, VA

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Dear PJM Members,

Last night I was one of many who attended a meeting regarding your proposed new transmission lines through Western Loudoun county. We are an extremely passionate group that are asking you to NOT choose our route through our county to put a band aid on a problem that needs another solution.

These data centers and their building permits are not being properly vetted for viability with the energy they need to be of use. We should not be held accountable with our land and our pocket books to subsidize these centers. This attempt at a short term solution will be met with lengthy regulation, extreme public opposition and major constraints on property acquisition. Find another way. Abandon the idea of putting these horrible eye sores through our scenic land.

Sincerely,

Mrs. John M. Leary

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed installation of high-capacity power transmission lines in the Catoctin Ridge area of Western Loudoun County, Virginia. I am particularly concerned about the path described in Option 1. I reside at 39394 Whispering Brook Place, just a few hundred meters from Canby Road. The Option 1 path would create a line of giant power transmission lines that would cut through a large farm that adjoins Canby Road and will be well within view of our neighborhoods. The proposed transmission lines, which require towers that are much larger than those used for "normal" normal power lines, will require the destruction of thousands of trees, and will end up being giant eyesores. The introduction of the large transmission towers and the accompanying infrastructure required to support them is highly likely to negatively affect the natural beauty of this area and, by extension, the values of the homes and properties that are within proximity of the tower.

The residents in this area are being asked to bear the risk to our property values and to the aesthetic quality of our environment just to feed the ever-increasing number of data center farms in eastern Loudoun County. It is particularly concerning that the deadline for commenting on this critical subject is in just a few days, but PJM seems to have done very little to provide the people most likely to be affected with any details. PJM should know that the residents in the path of Option 1 are quickly banding together to resist this project. We are in communication with the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, our Virginia State Delegates, and the Governor's office. We are prepared to fight this tooth and nail and are already working to find legal counsel.

Thank you for your consideration,

Eduardo J. and Katherine K. Ricart

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to make it very clear how opposed we are to the transmission line project to be built on the Catoctin Ridge. The proposed red line goes right through the neighborhood where I live with my husband and 3 young sons. The destruction of this area will not be tolerated and I can assure you the fight from this area will be great. I implore you to research the other options or come up with an idea that is innovative. Place them down highways, use existing rights-of-way, or be creative and come up with something inventive. Lawyers have been obtained by many in this area and the numbers of those in opposition is skyrocketing. As I know you do not reside in this region, I invite you to my home. You should have to see in person what you plan to destroy before you make any decisions. You need to visit Virginia's wine region, tour the historic town of Waterford and see the open land where my boys play. Option 1 is incredibly destructive, barbaric, inhumane and quite frankly, unimaginative and cruel. If you would not place these monstrosities in your own yard you cannot place them in mine. If you bypass laws around protected historic land you lack conscience. This land was meant to be untouched, not turned into a metal jungle. (pictures included from my road so you can see this beautiful landscape. This was the sunrise this very morning on the exact farm of the option 1 route.)

I implore you to go back to the drawing board and DO BETTER.

Sincerely,

Jenny Nyce

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Loudoun County understands the need for fertile farmland for its residents. We have such a place right here in the northernmost town called Lovettsville. A beautiful stretch of large and small homesteads that produce agricultural products and protect wildlife habitat, clean water, and forests. Lovettsville has been known for its German Farm Heritage and it is a treasure for local landowners and tourists to enjoy. It's history along with the nearby town of Waterford, is a civil war memorial, a small space is all that is left of working farms that could be preserved.

As a farm family in Lovettsville we have enjoyed the overwhelming natural beauty of our farm and the land that surrounds us. The current view of the Short Hill Mountains and its sunsets to the west and the sunrises in the east is about to be ruined and made uninhabitable by massive transmission lines. The peaceful feeling upon arriving at the gateway to Lovettsville and Waterford comes from uncluttered wide open space, fresh air, forests, and large fields with livestock and crops. As a family farm owner in Lovettsville, we have maintained our farm instead of selling it for development so that we can all live there and enjoy a life we all love. The peaceful unobstructed views we enjoy now on the farm and of the Short Hill Mountain is slated to be destroyed forever by massive towers of metal. The buzzing we have witnessed under these wires in open areas like Adamstown located in Maryland will affect us and any livestock living beneath them. There are studies with findings that humans living in close proximity to these overhead electric lines are affected. The close proximity to these power lines are detrimental to the physical and mental health of humans as you well know. I would ask only, why would PJM decide that a beautiful valley that is treasured by all, home to vineyards and beautiful landscapes would be chosen for a utility project of this size? Yes, we know now that what is left of Northern Virginia farms will be sacrificed if the transmission structures are built? People here realize that Loudoun's true wealth and it's natural beauty, are under attack by a corporation that provides energy to people all over the world. Big business vs. small businesses, the American dream is being crushed here. The view of large electric towers from our vineyards, farms, bed and breakfast lodgings, and our front porches will permanently destroy the beauty of our community. This project will set back any effort by the Land Trust of Virginia to work with local landowners in what is left of Northern Virginia farmland to donate conservation easements. This project if successful will set back the preservation of private open space forever here in Western Loudoun. It is so widespread that it will affect nearby Harpers Ferry, West Virginia and Brunswick, Maryland. Compare the recent addition of a data center in Adamstown, Maryland. Look at the lines above farms in Maryland's agricultural district there. Are there small homesteads of farmland under these massive electric lines? The answer is no. They are very large farms, not individual homes and farms. We have sacrificed all of eastern Loudoun to development, to sprawl, to data centers, and to businesses. Is it possible to save what little rural beauty we have left to be untouched by urban sprawl just for its beauty if for nothing else? Please keep this project out of our yards and away from our homes by choosing another route. I'm sure there are better routes than the one you have planned through our community. Thanks.

Julian Wayland

Landowner

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Mr. Anders and PJM Committee members:

I am a longtime owner of a near-300-year-old farm in Waterford, Virginia. My wife and I are firm proponents of historic preservation and land conservancy to benefit future generations. The proposed 500 kv transmission line path 2022-W3-853 will have devastating consequences for the landscape, its history, and its inhabitants in Western Loudoun County. Your own research has identified paths in more developed corridors with lower historical and environmental impacts.

I am firmly opposed to the current proposal and will continue my advocacy through Federal, state, and local government authorities as well as several local conservancies and non-profit organizations.

I realize any path selected will balance many competing interests. However, it is unacceptable to ruin one of the most important historical sites in our area (the village of Waterford) as well as the rural character that defines Western Loudoun County.

I have attached for your review the August 2023 National Park Service review of Waterford's historic status, as well as the detailed application prepared by the Waterford Foundation.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

Dan Lyons

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Dear Sir,

Please reconsider your plan to place a transmission line on the Phillips farm. The Waterford National Historic Landmark is a rare treasure of Loudoun County. It is a place where the history and beauty of Loudoun has been preserved for all citizens to experience, both newcomers and those born and raised in the Loudoun County.

Sincerely,

Susan Maloney

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Hello,

I recently learned of a proposed power line in the heart of our historic community. Not only is this not acceptable due to the environmental impact that it would cause our community but is only a further degradation of our rural scenic countryside that is slowly dwindling due to land grabs and money making. I moved to this area for the environment and have made sure to stand for proposals that would limit a disturbance to this wonderful community and/or increase our cost for profit. I strongly object to any proposal that not only would affect our community and additionally pass on cost to residents.

Thank you,  
Jessica Flores

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To: David Anders

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my vehement opposition to the proposed construction of transmission towers through the Phillips Farm in Waterford. As a concerned member of this community, I feel compelled to voice my concerns regarding the potential adverse impacts this project may have on our lives, our families, and the beautiful rural landscape we cherish.

First and foremost, I am deeply troubled by the potential violation of easement protections that the construction of these towering structures may entail. Easements exist to safeguard the rights of property owners and to maintain the integrity of the land. The proposed transmission towers, if implemented, pose a threat to these protections, undermining the very principles that form the foundation of property rights and legal agreements.

The high constructability risk associated with erecting 300+ foot tall transmission towers cannot be overlooked. The construction process, with its inherent complexities and challenges, poses a serious threat to the safety of our community. I am concerned about the potential disruptions to our daily lives, the safety of our families, and the stability of the environment we hold dear.

I urge you to consider the implications of persisting with a plan that is met with such widespread disapproval. The financial burden and the strain on community relations that may result from pushing forward despite public dissent are significant and should not be taken lightly.

Furthermore, the impact on rural Loudoun businesses cannot be ignored. Our local economy relies heavily on the charm and natural beauty of our landscape. The introduction of towering transmission towers has the potential to deter visitors, disrupt local businesses, and negatively influence the livelihoods of many hardworking individuals in our community.

Lastly, the effects on wildlife and the natural ecosystem must be thoroughly considered. Our region is home to a diverse array of flora and fauna, and the construction of these towers may disrupt their habitats, leading to irreparable damage to our local ecosystem within the Waterford National Historic Landmark.

In conclusion, I implore you to reconsider the proposed construction of new transmission towers in Waterford. The potential violations of easement protections, the high constructability risk, strong public opposition, and the impacts on rural businesses and wildlife make this proposal unacceptable to the community. I trust that you will give serious consideration to these concerns and act in the best interests of the community and the environment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Gary Christensen

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Dear Mr. Anders:

PJM is proposing a path of 300 foot transmission lines to run through the Waterford National Historic Landmark in Waterford, Virginia. For over 75 years, citizens of Waterford, Loudoun County, the State of Virginia and the United States have recognized that the 18th century village of Waterford is a unique American historical treasure worthy of protection from exactly the kind of inappropriate change that PJM proposes.

In the 1970's the U. S. Department of Interior decided that Waterford should be protected from change for the benefit of present and future Americans and designated the village and surrounding farmland as a National Historic Landmark.

The defenders of Waterford realize that protection of the National Landmark requires constant vigilance. There have always been short-sighted individuals and companies who would sacrifice the village of Waterford for the almighty dollar. Two decades ago, we raised millions of dollars to purchase and protect from development, the very land that PJM's proposed transmission line would traverse.

The citizens of Waterford are not about to roll over and allow an abomination of 300' towers and power transmission lines to cut through our National Landmark.

We strongly suggest that PJM explore other routes.

Regards,

Marsha A. Thompson

Robert C. Thompson

Waterford, VA

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Mr. Anders and the PJM Board Members,

As a resident of Waterford, VA, I oppose the proposal to develop a new transmission line through western Loudoun. The new line would not only further degrade the health and beauty of our native landscape, but also pass on the cost to citizens and voters. There are more sustainable and equitable opportunities ([see the Piedmont Environmental Council's ideas, for example](#)) to meet the growing needs of area data centers while fostering a mutually beneficial relationship with the community members and land that support this economy.

Please choose people over profits and reconsider the new power line in western Loudoun.

Thank you for your consideration.

S. F. McCrae

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Dear Sir:

It was with sick dismay that my family and neighbors learned of this redundant 3<sup>rd</sup> powerline proposal. Stress the word 'redundant'. Western Loudoun is an agrotourism center and we have many wedding functions in this region every year due to its natural beauty and tranquility, one of the reasons we moved here from the more congested Fairfax County. This proposed line would destroy all the effort Loudoun County as made to retain the agricultural activities, keep open land with views, and to build the tourism as an economic base. The western Loudoun proposal also would have high costs to you because we WILL fight, we WILL consult all the way to EPA regarding destruction of natural waterways and environment, we WILL block property acquisition, we WILL bring notice that registered historical sites (Waterford village) and land conservancies are involved, and therefore, the project will have very high constructability risk overall to you. (Remember Disney in Haymarket...oh, that's right, it doesn't exist). This proposed pathway has more risk associated with the 6 categories of concern than any of the other three shown to us. There were 72 potential sites mapped apparently. Why choose western Loudoun? Especially as a 'redundancy'. We recognize that there is too much data center construction and we are taking steps to stop that.

For us personally, we own and run a B&B in a 1762 historic home on a working farm which, in your proposal, will destroy our 'front' yard. Our B&B is tucked back from the road on a gravel drive and many guests have commented that they feel they have stepped back a century in time. Your lines and towers will destroy our creek, 3 natural springs that feed a nascent pond and will potentially destroy the

connection between our front pasture (the proposed towers and lines could potentially be through that pasture or even closer to our beloved old home) and the back cattle pasture. Construction would definitely disturb the cattle and birds (chickens, turkeys etc) that we raise, not to mention the abundant wildlife we enjoy inclusive of wild turkeys and birds of prey (aren't they protected?) who have a nest in the trees just where you propose to build. This proposed line would destroy our bucolic views and our business that people travel from crowded cities to enjoy; this was our method of supporting retirement and hopefully providing a bit for our children's future.

Furthermore, we are in a conservancy and I question any process that would override that. Additionally, for some reason, the data centers are not paying for their infrastructure needs and expect US to bear that burden I realize this is not your problem as you are only building the lines). NO, absolutely not!

Finally, VA law states that eminent domain cannot be declared for economic development reasons, that economic development is not a sufficient reason to take a person's property for a supposed 'public' project (one would question whether a data center is a public or a private matter, the latter I should think, since these data centers make money for their companies and stockholders). Your website and brochures all state that the powerline construction is needed for economic development. This project should be dead in the water.

My preference, and I'm sure that of my neighbors in the entire western Loudoun region, is that you select another pathway along existing construction and 4 lane highways that surely must have lower constructability risks for you. Why don't you investigate cheaper energy sources (liquid thorium reactors?). We request that all planning sessions affecting this region be transparent and immediate notice be given of any decisions that would affect us.

Submitted respectfully,

Kathleen, owner of property that would be most adversely affected



*Kathleen Funk, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVP  
President/Senior Pathologist*

*Experimental Pathology Laboratories, Inc.*

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Please move the proposed Power lines out of Waterford. Waterford has worked too hard to preserve this town from 1733 by buying up land around to preserve the view of the original town. Moving forward will impact the Waterford fair as well who boast a maintained town from the past. Please don't let this go through. I'm sure a more suitable area can be located.

Neighbors please join me in emailing David Anders objecting to the proposed Power lines.

Thank you,

Theresa Howe

Waterford resident

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I have just learned that you are proposing running a major power line near the historic village of Waterford. Over the years, Waterford has taken great effort to maintain its historical viewshed. Your proposed transmission lines will undo this effort in one fell swoop.

Waterford is a National Historic Landmark, which the US Department of Interior puts on a par with Mount Vernon and Monticello. In the 2023 affirmation of our Landmark status that was originally granted in 1970, the nomination report noted the following about Waterford's historic importance to the nation: "Beyond the remarkably well-preserved architecture in the village core, Waterford's natural features, including hedgerows, tree lines, waterways, and view sheds, have also been sensitively conserved and continue to represent an authentic rural agricultural service village set within farmlands. Additionally, beyond the preservation of its historic resources, the very limited modern infill, especially within the historic core, is notable. The integrity of the district is, in fact, due as much to the lack of twentieth and twenty-first century development in the village core and surrounding agricultural lands as it is to the high degree of integrity found in the individual historic buildings. Waterford's exceptional significance is thus partially derived from its overall appearance—including evocative view sheds within and outside the village in nearly every direction. The intact views and vistas add greatly to the authentic feel of a rural village as it might have appeared during the nineteenth century."

Thank you.

Ed Lehmann

Waterford, Virginia

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To the PJM Board of Managers:

My family is writing to express our strong opposition to the PJM proposal for a new 500 kV line in western Loudoun County, Virginia. My family has been a part of Loudoun County for over 20 years. We relocated from Fairfax in an effort to escape the congestion and become more intertwined with nature and the great outdoors. What we found in western Leesburg is an oasis. We have built a small hobby farm from the ground up, with horses and other pets, and we thoroughly enjoy the peace, the serenity, the unparalleled views, and the wildlife. We pinch ourselves as we awaken to bright pink sunrises in the East, over a huge 150+ acre farm in a conservation easement. We are lucky to enjoy stunning evening sunsets overlooking a huge valley of open farmland to the West. My daughters and I foxhunt and enjoy crisp mornings on our ponies, riding in achingly beautiful and undisturbed territory, right in our backyard. Your proposal would destroy all of this. All of it! You would destroy precious farms, bisect and ruin protected areas, and lay waste to so many communities.

As word of your proposal spreads from home to home, the communities in and around the affected areas are becoming more and more outraged and are rising up to stand up for what's right. There will be a very hard fight from all of us; we are committed to doing what it takes to preserve our way of life and our communities. Many have sought council, and more are lining up to see what recourse we have for fighting back. Your proposal would cause irrevocable harm to families, communities, farms, and the fact that you seem to have no regard for preservation and conservation is despicable.

We realize that your task is not easy, and you have a job to do. However, much more significant community engagement and a broader range of alternative solutions and transmission technologies need to be considered. Destroying protected land, historic land, and communities is not the answer. I urge you to go back to the drawing board, and find other options that don't lay waste to so much of Loudoun's most precious, undisturbed and wonderful land.

You must do better.

The Farmer's

Rustling Woods Ct

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Dear Mr. Anders,

As a resident of the Old Wheatland Estates neighborhood (located off of Old Wheatland Road and in close proximity to the National Landmark and Village of Waterford, Virginia) and citizen of Loudoun County, I am writing you to express deep concern with your firm's proposal to construct a data center transmission line through the National Landmark property.

The village and Landmark property is a longstanding and unique national historical area that has been preserved over decades with steadfast recognition as a community with its place in American history dating back to the 1700's. In the midst of expanding suburban population and commercial growth, the area has been and still is a place of peaceful residence, home to bald eagles and wildlife, and a step away from the ever present sprawl in Loudoun County and the greater Northern Virginia area.

Why would a proposal to construct data center transmission lines be located in the direct proximity to such an historic location. Why can't existing right of ways used for power transmission be followed, or instead locate new transmission lines along existing thoroughfares (for example, Route 7, Route 9, and Route 287) that admittedly still impair the western Loudoun countryside, but would avoid routing lines through a recognized and established National Landmark?

Please reconsider any proposal that would impact a National Landmark.

Sincerely and with Respect,

Douglas W. Roeder

Waterford, Virginia

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Dear Mr. Anders,

We write to vigorously oppose the construction of transmission lines through the Waterford, Virginia National Historic Landmark. Waterford is one of only 2,600 properties in the United States with this unique designation, dating back to 1733.

With little help from the state, county, or Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Waterfordians are engaged in a constant struggle to preserve the landmark's beauty against repeated attempts to destroy it. Years ago, residents rallied and spent tens of thousands of dollars to prevent the installation of a wedding venue that would tax our infrastructure and drain limited resources. This is but one example of the many efforts we have undertaken to stave off damage to this historic village.

A major year-round draw to Waterford for local residents is the Phillips Farm trail, a beautiful untouched property that is home to innumerable native flora and fauna. The proposed placement of transmission lines across this property is outrageous. Their installation and presence will cause irreparable damage to the viewshed for miles around and destroy wildlife, wildlife habitats, and plant life. This proposal will thus have a significant impact on residents and visitors alike. This proposal violates our conservation easements and threatens Waterford's landmark status.

I am confident that this proposal will be as firmly opposed as past efforts to threaten the landmark, and I implore you to find an alternative that does not sacrifice it to "progress."

Sincerely,

Nicholas J.D. Tiscione, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychologist, and

Kristen K. Tiscione

Professor of Law, Legal Practice

Georgetown University Law Center

Pronouns: she/her/hers

President, Legal Writing Institute (2018-2020)

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Dear Mr. Anders,

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the proposed transmission line construction through the protected national landmark of Waterford, VA. As a resident of Waterford I believe this construction will significantly impact the pristine pastoral surrounding areas, and be a detriment to Western Loudoun County as a whole. I strongly urge you to consider alternative solutions in areas that are already developed so as not to destroy more of our increasingly diminishing natural landscape. It is also worth noting that there will likely be significant public opposition to this plan.

Regards,

Chris Eccleston

Waterford, VA

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Mr. Anders,

I have recently been informed of a plan to consider the construction of electrical power lines across the Phillips Farm property which is owned by the Waterford Foundation. I find this proposal to be totally unacceptable on several counts. First, the Waterford Foundation has endeavored for many years to purchase surrounding property to both protect and preserve the village of Waterford from urban sprawl. The foundation also added easements to the properties to further protect the village from encroaching development. It has done so at a cost of multiple millions of dollars. The Village of Waterford is a rare gem in the county and has been designated as a National Historic Landmark. Waterford is one of the best examples in the entire country where people still reside in the colonial properties. Constructing massive electrical power lines on the Phillips Farm property would have a devastating impact on the village. The construction of power lines on our property would have serious environmental implications. It would destroy the pristine nature of the Phillips Farm which is a weigh station for Monarch butterflies and home to blue herons, red fox and white tailed deer. The property also has multiple nature trails that are enjoyed by residents throughout the county. It would also likely have a negative impact on local property values and potentially put the village's status as a National Historical Landmark at risk. In short, the construction of 300 foot power lines across the Phillips farm property would have a devastating impact on the village, its residents and the thousands of visitors who come to the area each year to enjoy the natural beauty of its parklands, its historical significance as a colonial mill town and its lovely charm. I for one am vehemently opposed to this plan and I believe that you will find that the residents of the surrounding area will be prepared to push back very hard on this ill conceived plan.

Bill Manch

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David,

I was asked to write you a short note re: PJM's proposal to locate major transmission lines through the middle of a National Historic Landmark. It probably goes without saying, but this is bad idea and will likely be met with substantial opposition. Waterford is one of the last places in Northern Virginia that has been a sanctuary from unbridled real estate development. For historical protection/preservation reasons, I trust you and your board will consider a more sensible path for these transmission lines.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,

Mark

*Mark Denicore*

*Waterford, VA*

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To the PJM Board of Members and the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to express my disapproval for the new proposed 500kV lines across Loudoun County, particularly in the Lovettsville area. Where is the environmental study and the study of the impact on agriculture/agritourism, historic areas effected? Please hear my plea to do the right thing. This is an absolutely beautiful area and so much is at stake concerning these power lines. As mentioned before, the environmental impact, the history, our agriculture that is struggling to stay alive. We as a community have complied with keeping our area to be an integral part of for example the Chesapeake watershed, also a path for migratory birds that use the Potomac river as part of their journey.

Just as I am writing this letter the migratory birds are on the move overhead, heading on their same path north which I have seen and listened to for the past 57 years on this same property in Loudoun County. This is the same path that these lines cross through. The same goes for the egrets that come every summer to our pond at the bottom of the farm. In the past 2 years eagles have just started to come in a tree right across the road from our house, again right where the lines are proposed to go.

I understand there are power deficiencies. It is unfortunate that our county didn't take into consideration of what data centers can do to our area but with you and the community we can figure this out together in a ecological and amiable way. Let's start looking at ways of energy efficiency that the energy data hogs consume. Let's start considering underground lines, underground data centers (heating and cooling efficiency). We as citizens in this area did not agree to this, there was no consent, no vote but yet here we are fighting to keep what we have. And the worst part of this is no information was sent to us and also to my neighbors. This was a word of mouth knowledge which makes this proposal even more disturbing and leans on the side of dishonesty because of the silence.

Thank you for your time in taking this letter into consideration.

Rebecca Jewell

Lovettsville, VA

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Dear Mr. Anders,

My husband and I attended a public meeting last night concerning the construction of the high intensity power lines through Western Loudoun County continuing down South to Richmond and other areas. The meeting was quite packed. I will voice just a few of the concerns that I have. Many people and many different entities have worked extremely hard to keep Western Loudoun County more rural rather than densely packed, and also geared toward agriculture that promotes tourism and that promotes examples of agriculture that exemplify the heritage of this and surrounding regions. My husband and I live just outside of Waterford, Virginia. Waterford is on the National Registry as a National Historic Landmark that is in the same category as Mount Vernon and Monticello. The foundation has worked with the National Park Service on various occasions in order to help maintain our National Historic Landmark certification. Having a high tension power line or even having distribution lines going through Philip's Farm, and its viewshed would not only greatly endanger our landmark status, but it would be the equivalent of putting these lines through Mount Vernon or Monticello. I grew up a few miles north of Mount Vernon and even in Fairfax County I think it would be unheard of that such a thing would be even considered. Secondly, the lines would be run over lands that are held in conservation easement and this likely would incur significant legal problems because of state laws in Virginia that protect these lands and the landowners in this type of situation. And third, it was quite evident that in approximately 10 years our electric bills would increase by about 100% as the costs would be passed onto the consumer.

I could list a whole host of concerns that I have but I'm sure that you will hear from others and I don't want to make this too lengthy for you. Everyone understands that to some degree more power is needed, but the list of questions pertaining to these needs, and possible variations of power sources and their types and locations is quite lengthy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Gail Hunt

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Mr. Anders and members of your committee:

In a word: unconscionable. That's what I think of your proposed paths for Loudoun County, VA. Unconscionable and amoral. Actually, I feel sorry for you in that, all you see is dollars and cents, profits and more profits. Your company collectively seems totally devoid of any sense of aesthetics, history, or capacity to honestly LISTEN TO or EMPATHIZE with the concerns of people who value other things in life, like pastoral beauty, preservation of historical landmarks upon which this nation was built, and the economic and moral values of a simpler, non-greedy way of life. Shame on you, shame on you all. If you were my son, you would still be living at home until you got your moral compass straightened out.

Joan W. Henry

Leesburg, VA

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Dear Sir and committee members,

I am a resident and property owner in Loudoun County, and would like to express my strong opposition and concern to each and all of the projects proposed for the transmission utility lines until there is much further study done on the impact of the data centers, and their requirement for additional power and power lines.

I am sincerely yours  
Bridget Lovelace O'Dell  
Waterford, VA

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To David Anders and the PJM Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal by PJM Interconnection for a new 500 kV transmission line in western Loudoun County. The proposed route goes through some of our most scenic and

historic landscapes, over prime farmland and through important wildlife habitats.

As someone who up until recently lived and farmed in Western Loudoun, this issue is very important to me as well as my neighbors and colleagues. The agricultural and agritourism sector is strong, but we must have undisturbed farmland and scenic views to continue what we are doing into the future. This proposed transmission line is a threat to our entire rural economic sector.

I understand that meeting the growing demand for power to data centers in Eastern Loudoun is a real challenge. But, this proposed route is likely to meet much public opposition and is already deemed to be a high constructibility risk - costing the ratepayers (here and in neighboring states like Maryland where I now live) much more in the future. I encourage you to reconsider and choose an option along pre-existing transmission routes that will have lower environmental impact and will minimize the cost.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sophia Fast

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Mr. Anders and PJM Board of Managers,

Please register my family's complete opposition to the proposed transmission line that runs through the northwest part of Loudoun County.

My husband and I carefully chose our land in the early 2000s, and subsequently built our home on these 13-acres in Lovettsville (\_\_\_\_\_ neighborhood in \_\_\_\_\_) due to the fact that our

land would be in an open space easement for perpetuity. The pond in our neighborhood was created by the Army Corps of Engineers to provide yet another benefit to this hamlet of homes, and it was stocked with fish almost 20 years ago. Our children have grown up fishing in this pond, which the proposed transmission line will traverse. Another aspect of the neighborhood easement is "protected viewsheds," which will be completely marred and ruined by transmission lines and towers. People move here for the serenity and beauty of "country life," and having soaring towers with 500kV of power buzzing audibly through our peaceful land is, frankly, an assault on our way of living.

When purchasing our land and building our home, we had to agree that we would never subdivide (legally would not have the option) due to the land classification we are in. If you bring transmission lines through our neighborhood, you will decimate our property values, and we don't even have recourse to break up our land into smaller parcels to sell off.

I am sure you are receiving countless emails that speak to the health concerns for both humans and animals related to these transmission lines, so I will not reiterate that very common concern (although there are many in our neighborhood with animals; we, ourselves, have dogs, chickens and keep honeybees). But I hope you will acknowledge that those of us who selected country environments to live and raise our families will be the hardest hit among those who would have to deal with these lines. Surely there must be another way. You cannot ignore the fact that our neighborhood is in a protected class of land to

keep the country heritage, and "connection to the land," of Loudoun County, alive. The impact of these lines will be almost immeasurable to our families.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Markey