



Commonwealth of Virginia
General Assembly
RICHMOND

31 JUL 2024

SUBJ.: Support of Undergrounding 500kV/230kV Transmission Lines along the Aspen to Golden Route

Dear State Corporation Commissioners:

As members of the Virginia General Assembly, representing Loudoun County, we strongly support undergrounding of the 500kV/230kV transmission lines along the Aspen-Golden Route.

Placing this critical infrastructure underground is vital for 1) enhancing public safety and protecting the national grid, and 2) preserving our historic, scenic assets and protecting property values for our constituents. Additionally, we recommend the industries creating the surge in energy demand should contribute meaningfully to the cost of burying these high-voltage lines.

- 1. Enhancing Public Safety and Protecting the National Grid.** Advances in underground transmission technology offer clear advantages for reliability and resilience. Undergrounded lines are less susceptible to weather-related disruptions, such as climate-change induced greater hurricane force winds, tornadoes, and heavier snowstorms. The enhanced reliability of undergrounding the lines is crucial for ensuring uninterrupted electricity service to our national grid, the data centers that provide for a robust, information-based economy, the Federal Government, residents, businesses, and essential services, while minimizing adverse impacts to our local economy and community well-being.
- 2. Preserving Scenic Assets and Protecting Property Values.** Loudoun County is known for its rural wineries, scenic landscapes, and historic assets, located nearby to well-designed urban-suburban communities. Dominion's proposed above ground transmission lines will see 190' tall transmission towers erected through the heart of some of Loudoun County's most valuable assets, thereby adversely impacting the visual, environmental, and economic impacts on thousands of our constituents.

The Commission should consider these items and order Dominion to place all or significant portions of the Aspen-Golden Line underground, particularly where the impacts would be greatest.

Additionally, we encourage the Commission to explore alternatives that would allow the existing infrastructure to provide more power over the same route. This could include but is not limited to High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) or Advanced Conducting Material (ACM).

In conclusion, we respectfully urge the State Corporation Commission to prioritize the undergrounding of 500kV/230kV transmission lines along the Aspen-Golden Route. As State Delegates and State Senators we have a responsibility to look beyond the borders of our own jurisdiction and assess how a decision may impact the entire Commonwealth. We believe the decision to underground these lines will not only benefit Loudoun County but will also set a precedent for responsible electrical infrastructure development throughout the Commonwealth and across the nation.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. Should you require any additional information or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

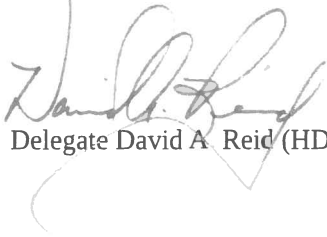
Respectfully,



State Senator Russet Perry (SD-31)



Delegate Kannan Srinivasan (HD-26)



Delegate David A. Reid (HD-28)

Delegate Geary Higgins (HD-30)



State Senator Suhas Subramanyam (SD-32)



Delegate Atoosa Reaser (HD-27)



Delegate Fernando "Marty" Martinez (HD-29)