Office of Administration

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Re: Copperton Transmission Project

To Whom It May Concern,

The landowners of District #6 and I support responsible growth in our community. We understand that population growth and changing needs require improvements to our infrastructure, including reliable electrical service. However, we believe that growth must be balanced with the needs of the rural landowners who will be directly affected.

Since the pandemic, our area has experienced increased population and development. Many people have chosen rural living because they value open space, self-sufficiency, and the ability to make a living from the land. Our community includes farmers, ranchers, foresters, hunters, trappers, small-business owners, and families who simply value a quiet rural way of life.

My own family has made its living from the land for four generations. Our family helped settle Ensley Township through farming, raising livestock, planting fruit trees, and producing cash crops. For families like ours, the land represents much more than property. It is our livelihood, our heritage, and something we hope to preserve for future generations.

The proposed transmission-line development through the heart of agricultural and forest land is therefore a significant concern. We recognize the need for additional electrical infrastructure, but we ask that equal consideration be given to the long-term impact on the landowners who will host these facilities.

Transmission lines and towers can affect farming, livestock operations, forestry, property use, and the future productivity of the land. Landowners may also continue to carry the tax burden associated with property that has become restricted in its use.

We respectfully ask that all reasonable alternatives be considered, including routes that utilize existing utility corridors, less productive land, wetlands where appropriate, or other areas that would minimize the impact on productive farmland and forestland.

We also believe that landowners who provide property for this infrastructure should receive fair and meaningful consideration for the long-term burden placed upon them. One option worth exploring would be continued tax revenue or other compensation tied to the amount of land dedicated to transmission infrastructure.

We are **not opposed to growth or progress**. We are asking that growth occur in a way that recognizes the value of the land and the people who have invested generations in maintaining it.

Money and infrastructure can be developed over time, but productive land is limited. Once farmland and forestland are fragmented or significantly restricted, it cannot easily be replaced.

We respectfully ask that the needs of future growth be balanced with the rights, livelihoods, and responsibilities of the landowners who will bear the direct impact of these projects.

Growth should be a partnership—not a burden placed primarily on the landowners who provide the property.

We ask that you carefully consider the long-term effects of this project and work with the affected landowners to develop a plan that allows our community to grow while protecting the rural character, productivity, and future of our land.

Respectfully,

Brenda Bird
District #6 Commission