



## **Oppose Transmission Line Corridor Across the Blue Ridge**

Resolution 2025 – 1

Adopted Unanimously

January 9, 2025

WHEREAS the Loudoun County BOS has determined that the County should develop its own network of preferred corridors for electric transmission lines to be used in guiding future growth of the electric grid within the County; and

GIVEN, the need to consider the suitability of the natural topography, special terrain features, vegetative cover, and hydrological functioning, as well as the human related considerations of residential development patterns, farmland protection, historical sites protection, scenic values, and parkland sanctity in recommending the placement of new transmission lines, developing such a network of preferred corridors will be a challenging task that should take into account the high priority of protecting the existing structure and optimized functioning of each of these relevant natural systems and human values; and

RECOGNIZING, the existing transmission line right of way, controlled by Dominion Energy and FirstEnergy that crosses the Blue Ridge Mountains between Virginia SR 9 and the Potomac River, where it cuts across the Valley Between the Hills, Sweet Run State Park, and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and its associated NPS owned trail corridor lands (a unit of the National Parks system), is unsuitable for expansion in any consideration of transmission line corridor development in Loudoun County; and

FURTHER RECOGNIZING, this existing right of way is a serious intrusion on the historic rural landscape of the Valley Between the Hills; it is incompatible with the parkland status of the Sweet Run State Park and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and its associated corridor lands; its removal of the forest cover on the steep slopes of the Blue Ridge has resulted in serious soil erosion that degrades the water quality of the surface water in Sweet Run SP and increases storm runoff from the Blue Ridge into the streams below; also the removal of forest cover on the Blue Ridge results in opportunistic invasive species gaining a foothold within this right of way; and the removal of forest cover creates a serious scar of the Blue Ridge's ridgeline that degrades the scenic character of western Loudoun County for residents and tourists alike.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the *Friends of Blue Ridge Mountains* is deeply concerned that all efforts to develop preferred electric transmission line corridors in Loudoun County should consider the inappropriateness of expanding this existing right of way over the Blue Ridge Mountain and the Valley Between the Hills because such expansion would substantially further degrade the natural resource and human values associated with this right of way, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, *Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains* petitions the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, the Loudoun County Planning Commission, and any advisory body charged with developing recommendations on preferred electric transmission line corridors, in consideration of the adverse factors listed in this resolution to excluded this, and any other proposed transmission line corridor that would cross the Blue Ridge Mountains, from consideration of inclusion in any listing of preferred electric transmission line corridors in Loudoun County.

Resolution submitted to the *Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains* Board of Directors for consideration by Lowell Smith.