

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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OPERATIONS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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241 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4610
(202) 225-5136

13873 PARK CENTER ROAD
SUITE 130
HERNDON, VA 20171
(703) 709-5800
(800) 945-9653 (IN STATE)

110 NORTH CAMERON STREET
WINCHESTER, VA 22601
(540) 667-0990
(800) 850-3463 (IN STATE)

wolf.house.gov

The Honorable Tim Kaine
Governor of Virginia
State Capitol
Richmond VA 23219

Dear Governor Kaine:

I was disappointed to learn that the Pennsylvania Utility Commission approved its portion of the Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line (TrAIL) transmission line project and I write today to again urge you to consider forming an interstate compact to take one final look at this project before it moves forward.

You may recall that I mentioned this option in my September 18 letter to you. Federal law (P.L. 109-58) allows for an "interstate compact" of three or more states to join together to create a regional transmission siting agency that has the authority to review, certify, and permit regional transmission facilities. If the states agree on a plan, this interstate compact would pre-empt federal authority.

There is a window of opportunity to sit down and reevaluate the details before construction on this project begins as the SCC is still waiting to receive the final orders from Pennsylvania and West Virginia. It is my understanding that West Virginia's final order is still pending on several conditions. I encourage you to start a discussion with the governors from West Virginia and Pennsylvania to explore an interstate compact that would help to ensure that the best decisions for all parties are made and that no mistakes are made that cannot be undone. The lands that these transmission lines will cross in northern Virginia have significant historical, environmental, scenic and cultural value and millions of federal, state, local and private dollars have been spent to protect and preserve this area. Once this landscape is blemished by these huge transmission lines, there will be no turning back.

Thank you for your consideration of an issue of such importance to Virginians.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

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