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10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 26, 2009

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The Honorable Judith Williams Jagdmann
Virginia State Corportation Commission
PO Box 1197
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Dear Judge Jagdmann:

I write today to share my concerns about American Electric Power (AEP) and Allegheny Energy's joint application to the State Corporation Commission (SCC) for the Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline (PATH) transmission line.

I am opposed to this project and question its need. I have yet to see anything to convince me that unless these huge power lines are built across our region, we will be sitting in dark homes and offices. Instead, in my review of these plans, all I see is that regions along the East Coast where the power will be shipped will reap the benefits and the "benefits" for our region will be towering structures strung with wire dotting the countryside and backyards of the places we call home, not to mention higher rates for our consumers to pay for new power lines that will not bring power to their homes.

I have been troubled by the countless complaints I have received from constituents that the power companies have not sufficiently addressed community concerns about the PATH project. On several occasions, the citizens and local elected officials requested that a community forum be held with the companies to answer questions. However, the only public events held were "open house" type meetings that did not provide for a question and answer session. These communities are still waiting for answer to their legitimate reservations about this project.

I respectfully request that that you, as the commissioners of the SCC, hold public hearings in the affected areas and that at least one of you attend each hearing. I understand that the standard procedure is to send a hearing examiner. However, I believe that the citizens of Virginia deserve to have their cases heard by those who will be making the decision. The responsibility should fall on your shoulders as commissioners to take account of citizen concerns first hand.

One of the clauses in the State Corporation Commission's code of ethics states that the SCC will "discharge our duties and regulatory responsibilities in a manner that instills public confidence in the Commission." I believe there is a public perception that the mission of the SCC—the state's primary regulatory agency—to balance the interests of citizens and businesses has been tilted excessively toward the business end. Some believe that the SCC has become a rubber stamp for the industries it regulates. I believe that having at least one commissioner

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attend any public hearing held would help to restore public confidence. There should be weight given to citizen concerns as these applications move through the SCC process.

I urge you to closely examine every aspect of this project, including the need and citizen concerns, as this application is considered, I also urge you to become personally involved in public hearings in the communities which will be affected.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue of critical importance to the quality of life of my constituents.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:cr