Clarke County Board of Supervisors

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Russell Voting District
Doug Lawrence
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County Administrator
Chris Boies
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Resolution Strongly Opposing the Proposed Valley Link Transmission Project in Clarke County

2026-15R

WHEREAS Valley Link, a joint venture of Dominion Energy, FirstEnergy Transmission, and Transource Energy, has proposed the "Valley North Project", a 260-mile, 765-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Putnam County, West Virginia to Frederick County, Maryland; and

WHEREAS three of the four proposed routes from Frederick County, Virginia to Jefferson County, West Virginia would impact lands in Clarke County; and

WHEREAS information provided by Valley Link notes that the transmission line would require new steel lattice structures, 150 to 170 feet in height, to be sited on new and permanently cleared 200-foot-wide rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS the project is intended to transmit bulk power to meet increasing demand in areas outside of Clarke County and will provide no direct benefit to the residents or businesses of Clarke County who would bear the burden of its presence; and

WHEREAS the proposed routes impact lands in permanent conservation easement, Agricultural & Forestal Districts, two National Register Rural Historic Districts, areas with prime farmland soils, and County-owned parkland; and

WHEREAS over the past fifty years the Clarke County community and its elected leaders have carefully crafted Comprehensive Plans, Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances, and implemented a Conservation Easement Program, all with the primary objective of preserving and protecting the County's unique natural, historical, cultural, and agricultural resources; and

WHEREAS the Board of Supervisors finds that an overhead 765kV line would cause significant and irreparable harm to Clarke County's rural character, agricultural industry, and preserved forestlands, would impact a number of residential homes and farms, would have unknown impacts during construction on groundwater given the County's karst topography, and would significantly affect property values for local residents; and

WHEREAS members of the Board of Supervisors have repeatedly heard clear and overwhelming opposition to the proposed transmission line from their constituents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Clarke County Board of Supervisors formally strongly opposes the construction of the Valley North Project as currently proposed in Clarke County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that FY 27 General Fund budgeted expenditure and appropriation be increased $500,000 and that the designation for Government Savings be reduced in the same amount, for the purpose of creating a legal contingency fund to oppose the Valley North Project. The County Administrator, in consultation with the County Attorney, is authorized to retain outside legal counsel as necessary and within available or subsequently authorized appropriations to assist in the County's formal opposition to the Valley North Project.

APPROVED AND ORDERED ENTERED in the official records by the unanimous vote of the Clarke County Board of Supervisors assembled on the 13th day of July, 2026.

ATTEST 2026-15R

David S. Weiss, Chair