Clarke County Board of Supervisors

Berryville Voting District
Douglas Shaffer
(540) 955-5175

Buckmarsh Voting District
David S. Weiss – Chair
(540) 955-2151

Millwood Voting District
Terri T. Catlett – Vice Chair
(540) 837-2328

White Post Voting District
Bev B. McKay
(540) 837-1331

Russell Voting District
Doug Lawrence
(540) 955-2144

County Administrator
Chris Boies
(540) 955-5175

Resolution Further Clarifying County's Strong Opposition to the Proposed Valley Link Transmission Project in Clarke County

2026-16R

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 the Board of Supervisors previously approved the Resolution Strongly Opposing the Proposed Valley Link Transmission Project in Clarke County (2026-15R); and

WHEREAS a number of local public bodies also adopted resolutions of opposition including the Planning Commission, Conservation Easement Authority, Economic Development Advisory Committee, Industrial Development Authority, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Historic Preservation Commission, Sanitary Authority, Millwood Community Association, and Humane Foundation, as well as the Clarke County School Board, Town of Berryville Town Council, and Frederick County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS the Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) program was designed to protect drinking water supplies in areas with few or no alternative sources to the groundwater resource and the Environmental Protection Agency designated the Prospect Hill Spring Aquifer as an SSA on July 23, 1987; and

WHEREAS a drainage divide between the Opequon Creek and the Shenandoah River known as the Limestone Ridge is a critical area for recharging the groundwater for a large portion of the County; and

WHEREAS a route proposed by Valley Link proposes to locate the transmission line in Clarke County, directly within the area of the federally-designated Prospect Hill Spring Aquifer, as well as the Limestone Ridge; and

WHEREAS the Board of Supervisors, County staff, and citizens have further examined the proposed routes and the potential impacts to the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors will oppose any proposal taking land from the County Park located at 225 Al Smith Circle and will contest, to the fullest extent allowed by law, any easement on park property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors will defend, to the fullest extent allowed by law, all conservation easements held by the Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority and will not consent to any modifications or deviations from the terms of any recorded conservation easement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors will contest any construction activities within the SSA 32 Prospect Hill Aquifer, Clarke County (Federal Register 21733); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors will request that the federal government review any construction within the SSA 32 Prospect Hill Aquifer, Clarke County (Federal Register 21733); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that further investigation of the proposed routes and supporting information by the Board of Supervisors, County staff, and the public continues to reveal detrimental impacts to the natural, scenic, and historic resources of the County, as well as additional concerns for the quality of life of its citizens.

APPROVED AND ORDERED ENTERED in the official records by the unanimous vote of the Clarke County Board of Supervisors assembled on the 10th day of August, 2026.

ATTEST 2026-16R

David S. Weiss, Chair