

MONONGALIA COUNTY COMMISSION

243 HIGH STREET, ROOM 202
COURTHOUSE
MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA 26505

Jeffrey L. Arnett, Commissioner
Thomas C. Bloom, Commissioner
Sean P. Sikora, Commissioner

Telephone: 304 291-7257



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Mid-Atlantic Link (MARL) project, proposed by NextEra Energy Transmission, seeks to construct high-voltage transmission lines through multiple counties in West Virginia, including Monongalia County; and

WHEREAS, the MARL Project includes building a new approximately 105-mile 500-kV transmission line from a connection point near Gore, Virginia to existing substations in Allegheny County, Maryland, and Greene County, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, West Virginia is 5th in the nation in energy production while we only consume three fifths of the energy it generates and overall is a net exporter of electricity to the region; and

WHEREAS, Monongalia County is home to two coal fired power plants and a gas fired power plant approved for construction by the West Virginia Public Service Commission pending final financing, demonstrating that the county is already making a substantial contribution to regional energy needs; and

WHEREAS, the MARL project is intended to transport electricity across West Virginia to serve increased energy demands, particularly from data centers in Northern Virginia, effectively turning Monongalia County into a transmission corridor without delivering meaningful local benefit; and

WHEREAS, the proposed routes would significantly and irreparably harm landowners, farms, forests, and communities, including long-standing family properties and environmentally sensitive areas in Monongalia County for a transmission line that primarily serves out-of-state interests; and

WHEREAS, the Monongalia County Commission values private property rights and the importance of protecting the livelihoods and quality of life of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the project would negatively impact Monongalia County's property values, agriculture, tourism industry, and natural scenic integrity, while providing only a marginal increase in local tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, the project will ultimately be funded through regional utility rate increases, effectively forcing Monongalia County residents to help finance a project that adversely affects their community without delivering any discernible net benefit to the affected property owners.

NOW, THEREFORE WE, the members of the Monongalia County Commission, do hereby formally oppose the siting or construction of the MARL 500 kV overhead transmission lines within the boundaries of Monongalia County, as such infrastructure would damage the natural beauty of our county, impair tourism, diminish property values, and confer no commensurate benefit on local residents while forcing all of our citizens to ultimately pay for this project through increased electricity rates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on all elected officials representing Monongalia County to join the Monongalia County Commission in opposing this project in addition to urging the West Virginia Public Service Commission to reject this project when it comes before them for consideration.

Adopted this the 30th day of July 2025.


Jeffrey L. Arnett
President


Thomas C. Bloom
Commissioner


Sean P. Sikora
Commissioner