



Loudoun County

VIRGINIA

Caleb A. Kershner
Catoctin District Supervisor

Board of Supervisors

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PJM Board of Managers
PJM Interconnection
2750 Monroe Boulevard
Audubon, PA 19403

Dear PJM Board of Managers,

As the District Supervisor who represents most of Western Loudoun County, I am writing today to express my opposition to PJM Proposal 2022-W3-853 that would run a new 500kV line through my district.

Most of the options on the table would extend power lines along existing rights-of-way, which makes much more sense. But Proposal 2022-W3-853 would run new power lines directly through the middle of the rural west. These overhead lines would have to cut through existing farms. They would divide Loudoun's Wine Country in half. And they would seriously impair the beautiful rural viewshed that we have so carefully preserved.

The irreparable harm that would be caused by this proposal could never be reversed. Here in the rural west, we are careful with our infrastructure projects. Every time we fix something, we make sure that we also preserve the rural landscape and character. When we expand our broadband access, we carefully run the fiber along many of the existing paths and poles. When we widen Route 15, we make sure the new design fits the rural setting. This commonsense approach has allowed us to fix real problems while keeping rural Loudoun alive and well.

One of the reasons Proposal 2022-W3-853 was selected was because of the project's cost effectiveness. However, Proposal 2022-W3-853 is not cost effective for Loudoun County and poses a risk to critical industries in Western Loudoun.

Loudoun's tourism industry brings \$2 billion in revenue to the county. Loudoun County has the most wineries and breweries in Virginia which are a large component of our agritourism industry. Loudoun's wedding industry is worth more than \$118 million per year and Loudoun's equine industry, which is the largest in the Commonwealth, contributes \$180 million in annual economic impact to the County. We simply cannot afford to put these industries at risk.

I urge the Board of Managers to consider a less intrusive alternative that will not harm our farms and will preserve Loudoun's historic villages and towns. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Caleb A. Kershner

Supervisor

Catoctin District

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors



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cc: Loudoun County Board of Supervisors