
OFFICIAL STATEMENT

March 5, 2026

AGRICULTURAL, FORESTAL, AND RURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE STATEMENT TO THE LOUISA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THE PROPOSED VALLEY LINK 765-KV TRANSMISSION LINE

The Agricultural, Forestal, and Rural Preservation Committee recognizes the importance of a reliable electric grid and the role transmission infrastructure plays in supporting it. Our concern is not with reliability, but with the proposed routing of a 765-kV overhead transmission line through actively managed agricultural and forestry land in Louisa County.

Much of the land along the proposed route has been described as “undeveloped.” The Committee believes this characterization is inaccurate. Land used for crops, cattle, forage production, timber, and pulpwood is not undeveloped—it is working land that has been intentionally managed and invested in over long time horizons. These lands support farming and forestry operations, contribute to the local tax base, and are central to the rural character of Louisa County.

A 765-kV overhead transmission line is large-scale, permanent industrial infrastructure. When placed across working farms and forests, it can fragment agricultural and forest lands, disrupt operations, and alter the long-term character of the rural landscape.

Because the Board of Supervisors has consistently emphasized the importance of preserving Louisa County’s rural character, the Committee recommends that the Board formally oppose the proposed route as currently presented. We further recommend that the Board request that the State Corporation Commission require utilities to evaluate alternatives that minimize impacts to working agricultural and forestry land, including routing alongside existing infrastructure corridors where feasible.

Agricultural and forestry lands should not be labeled “undeveloped” simply because they remain open. They are productive working landscapes and are foundational to the rural character and economic vitality of Louisa County.

**Agricultural, Forestal, and Rural Preservation Committee
Jim Riddell, Chairman**