

A Resolution of the City Council of Ranson, West Virginia Opposing the Valley Link North, Gore-Doubs-Goose Creek, and Mid-Atlantic Resiliency Link (MARL) Transmission Line Projects

WHEREAS, the City of Ranson is a growing, family-centered community within Jefferson County, West Virginia, whose neighborhoods, schools, parks, and small businesses contribute significantly to the County's economic vitality and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Ranson lies within one of the most historically and environmentally significant regions of the State of West Virginia, adjacent to nationally recognized heritage sites, agricultural lands, and tourism destinations that support local employment and regional investment; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Valley Link North, Gore-Doubs-Goose Creek, and Mid-Atlantic Resiliency Link (MARL) high-voltage transmission line projects would introduce industrial-scale infrastructure into Jefferson County, including areas near Ranson's residential neighborhoods, commercial corridors, and community recreation spaces; and

WHEREAS, under W. Va. Code § 24-2-11a, the West Virginia Public Service Commission (PSC) must ensure that any proposed transmission project serves the public convenience and necessity, minimizes adverse environmental and cultural impacts, and provides demonstrable benefits to West Virginia ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, residents and community leaders across Jefferson County have submitted letters to the PSC showing that these projects would:

- Increase electric rates for West Virginia consumers while primarily serving out-of-state load growth;
- Reduce property values for adjacent and nearby landowners, thereby diminishing tax revenues that fund schools, emergency services, and municipal infrastructure;
- Threaten historic properties and cultural landscapes throughout Jefferson County;
- Impair tourism and scenic viewsheds that support the regional economy, including viewsheds connected to Harpers Ferry, Charles Town, and the Shenandoah Valley;
- Endanger Jefferson County's karst aquifer system, which supplies drinking water to residents and supports agricultural operations, through herbicide use, tower foundation excavation, soil disturbance, and potential disruptions to groundwater flow; and

WHEREAS, Ranson's residential neighborhoods, schools, and community parks are particularly sensitive to visual intrusion, noise, and land disturbance associated with large transmission

infrastructure, and the cumulative impacts of these projects would impose long-term economic, cultural, and environmental harm on Ranson residents; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that these projects, as proposed, fail to demonstrate measurable benefits to West Virginia ratepayers and pose unacceptable risks to Ranson's community character, economic development, and environmental resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Ranson, West Virginia, that:

1. The Council formally opposes the Valley Link North, Gore-Doubs-Goose Creek, and Mid-Atlantic Resiliency Link (MARL) transmission line projects as presently proposed.
2. The Council urges the West Virginia Public Service Commission to deny Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for these projects unless and until the applicants demonstrate clear, measurable benefits to West Virginia ratepayers and adopt routing alternatives that avoid Jefferson County's residential, historic, scenic, and agricultural lands.
3. The Council directs the City Clerk to transmit certified copies of this Resolution to the West Virginia Public Service Commission, the Jefferson County Commission, and the Governor of West Virginia.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Ranson City Council, West Virginia, this **6th** day of **October 2026**.

Kenneth Suits, Mayor

ATTEST:

Darla Armstrong, City Clerk