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August 26, 2015

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Ms. Lynn Good, President
Duke Energy
4620 1st Flight Drive
Charlotte, NC 28208

Dear Ms. Good:

I have been contacted by many of my constituents in Polk County about their concerns regarding the proposed Duke Energy Western Carolinas Modernization route options that would result in the construction of transmission towers through Polk County. I will relay constituent concerns and information to you as I receive them in advance of the August 30 public comment deadline. In the interim, I also want to express my own concerns regarding this matter.

As I am sure you know Polk County's economy and the livelihood of many of its citizens are tied to tourism, equestrian businesses, and rural residential development. Aesthetics are vital to all of these industries and currently give Polk County a strategic advantage. Any significant impairment to aesthetics would be as damaging to my constituents and your customers in Polk County as a catastrophic loss of generation facilities would be to Duke Energy. The proposed route through the county appears capable of delivering that level of impairment.

I understand the necessity of the modernization project to meet our regional energy needs. Obviously, people cannot access the electricity they need without the infrastructure to deliver it. However, I am asking that Duke Energy consider the unique and significant impact its decision on how to provide that infrastructure will have on the lives and livelihoods of the people of Polk County.

Options that minimize the modernization plan's footprint in the county, such as burying lines or limiting lines to existing right of ways may result in additional costs and effort for you. But, I believe a sound argument can be made that good corporate citizenship can at times call for incurring additional challenges to prevent stakeholders from incurring damage from which they might not recover. I believe that is the type of situation we have in this instance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for the services you provide for my constituents. I would appreciate you keeping me advised of developments in this matter. Please address your response to my Hickory District Office, P.O. Box 1830, Hickory, NC 28603.

Sincerely,



Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress