

MOTION:

**January 17, 2017
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 17-**

SECOND:

RE: RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 1766 AND SENATE BILL 1110

ACTION:

WHEREAS, legislation (House Bill 1766 and Senate Bill 1110) has been submitted during the 2017 General Assembly Session on behalf of electric utility providers that would significantly and dramatically limit localities' zoning authority concerning facilities associated with electric transmission lines, such as substations and switching stations; and

WHEREAS, as currently drafted, this legislation would negatively affect the zoning authority of local governments, which has served the citizens of Virginia and the County well for many years, by ensuring that the community directly impacted by a proposed facility has an opportunity to review the impacts of these types of proposed facilities, determine whether the proposed facility is appropriate in a particular location in that community, and put in place appropriate project-specific conditions to safeguard the community; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has already restricted the County's zoning authority regarding electric transmission lines, including Dominion Virginia Power's proposed Haymarket 230kV transmission line, although the Board has repeatedly and strongly supported the I-66 Hybrid option as the only appropriate option for this line; and

WHEREAS, this legislation will negatively impact localities throughout Virginia by taking away localities' long-standing zoning authority regarding these facilities and preventing the communities directly affected by these facilities from having any opportunity to review the negative impacts of these facilities on their community and put in place appropriate project-specific conditions to safeguard the community; and

WHEREAS, the local governing bodies, elected by the people directly impacted by these facilities, not the General Assembly and State Corporation Commission in Richmond, should be making the land use decisions concerning their own communities; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William County Board of County Supervisors simply desires to preserve its existing zoning authority in order to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare of the County and its citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors does hereby oppose House Bill 1766 and Senate Bill 1110 as currently drafted;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors does hereby strongly oppose any amendments to House Bill 1766 and Senate Bill 1110 that would cause Dominion's proposed 230kV transmission line and the associated facilities in Prince William County to be approved by the State Corporation Commission without local zoning approval;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors does hereby endorse County staff's efforts to oppose this legislation to mitigate its negative impact on localities throughout Virginia, including the County, and authorizes and directs staff to continue these efforts throughout the 2017 General Assembly Session.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

ATTEST: _____

Clerk to the Board