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To: The Frederick County Planning Commission

October 19, 2010

RE: Compliance of Proposed PATH Powerline with County Comprehensive Plan

Dear Planning Commission Members,

Montgomery Countryside Alliance joins with numerous civic groups and individuals to request that you find the PATH Powerline incompatible with the Frederick County Comprehensive Plan.

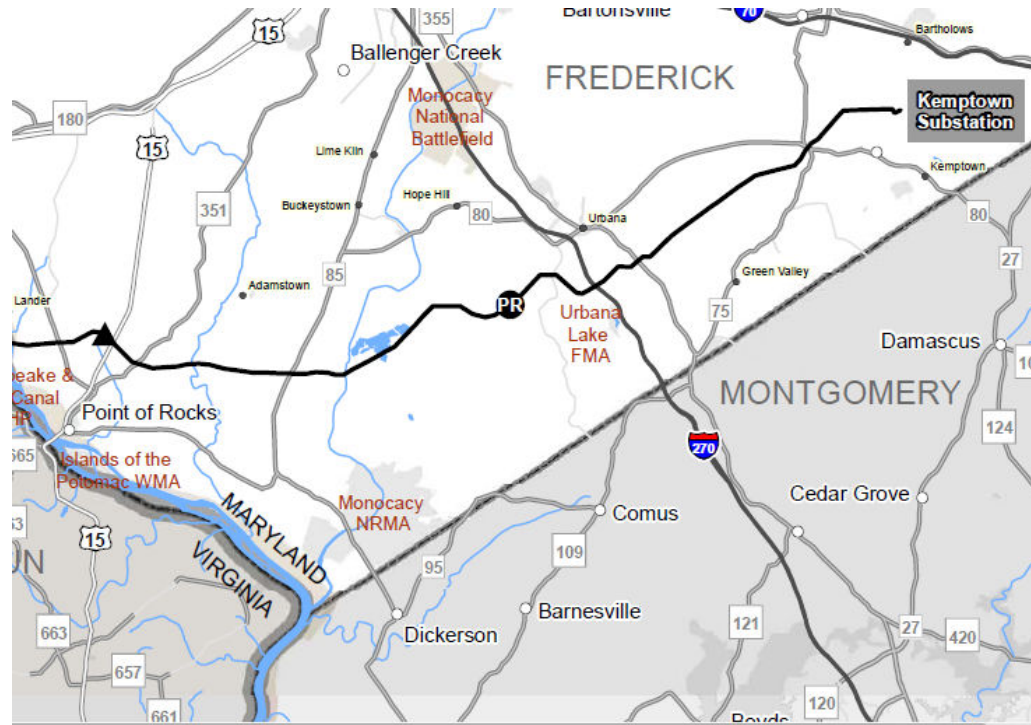
The proposed route of the power line cuts through areas that the Comp Plan has already singled out for special protection. The line as proposed would bisect the "Environmental and Natural Resource Reserve" that was proposed and supported by this Commission to protect this specific area west of 270, north of the Ag Reserve and east of the Monocacy. In other words, this Commission already knows that this area needs *more* protection from non-agricultural development, not less. As you will note from the map below, the proposed line cuts through the heart of this critical area.

The proposed line also cuts just north of what is arguably Southern Frederick County's crown jewel, Sugarloaf Mountain. With its beauty and history, Sugarloaf is hard to overlook as a landmark, a refuge, and a Frederick County Treasure. The problem is that Allegheny Power and their partners hope that we will overlook the Mountain. That is the only possible explanation as to why it is represented by a blank space on the Proposed Route Map below, printed from the PATH site this morning. Since seeing Allegheny's "oversight" I had a chance to drive by the Mountain, I can assure you it is still there.

Just as the backers of PATH see fit to represent a majestic mountain as a blank spot on the map, they represent the surrounding farms, communities, open spaces and critical environmental areas situated all along the proposed line as blank spots as well. In all that has come before you, you have seen that this is all too typical, those pushing large, inappropriately sized development like to portray their proposed sites as blank spots on the map ideal for their project.

These places are anything but blank, they are vibrant. The Agricultural Zones that the proposed line cuts through are working landscapes, where some farmers are choosing to put their land into conservation to protect it and the practice of farming in Frederick County forever. I am attaching a

story from the *Delmarva Farmer* about Jerry Faulring, of Waverly Farm along rt 85, who has two types of easements on his farm but still finds his land and business threatened by PATH. Through the easements on his property, Mr. Faulring is trying to give his farm one more layer of protection; it is his efforts, and not those of PATH that should represent the future of Frederick County's Ag Zone.



To be clear, for a commission that is trying to strengthen the Ag Zone designation and use that zoning as a tool for a reasonable rate of development under the recently adopted and completely laudable Comprehensive Plan, approving the PATH line is undoing your own hard work in one stroke. This is why Montgomery Countryside Alliance stands with the residents all along the proposed route to ask you to find this proposal incompatible with the Comp Plan.

Thank You,

Kristina Bostick
Conservation Associate