



TENNESSEE INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT

A SPIRITUAL RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

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December 30, 2016

Members of the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors

Bill Johnson, President

Tennessee Valley Authority

400 West Summit Hill Drive

Knoxville TN 37902

Dear TVA Board members and Mr. Johnson:

Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light, a statewide partnership of faith groups, spiritually responds to the moral challenges of climate change through caring for the earth and for all. As interfaith leaders, we strive to encourage the protection of Creation, including the land, air and water.

The Clean Line transmission project would bring up to 4,000 megawatts of high quality wind energy into the southeast – a region that relies heavily on carbon polluting power stations. By increasing its wind energy resources, TVA can invest in a low-impact energy source. Wind energy uses no water, emits no toxic air pollution, and occupies a small amount of land in order to generate electricity.

The Department of Energy has already completed an extensive environmental review of the Plains and Eastern Clean Line project and found no long-term harmful impacts. In fact, the associated wind energy would significantly reduce harmful air pollutants from other power plants. Buying more wind power enables better stewardship of our resources.

Wind power prices have plummeted over the past five years, and now are at all-time historic lows. The Plains and Eastern Clean Line would connect some of the lowest cost wind power from the Great Plains directly to the southeast. Securing long-term ratepayer protection from escalating costs would help families struggling to pay electric bills. **For the TVA system, the project is estimated to actually reduce overall costs by about \$1.44 per megawatt hour.** This investment would make our region more attractive to new companies wanting large quantities of clean energy.

Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light urges you to minimize the environmental impacts of electric power generation by contracting for significant quantities of wind energy from the Plains and Eastern Clean Line project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Louise Gorenflo, executive director