



**John T. Stirrup**  
Gainesville District

## **COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM**

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Good morning, I am Supervisor John Stirrup; it is my honor and privilege to represent the Gainesville Magisterial District on the Prince William County Board of Supervisors. The 70,000 citizens that I represent, their homes and property rights are all directly impacted by the threat of NIETC designation.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the draft National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Designations. However, I must say initially that two minutes cannot adequately allow ample time to address the concerns that I have and that my constituents continue to voice. I firmly believe you are doing a significant injustice to the public and to our constitutionally guaranteed “due process” by holding one lightly-advertised hearing, for an impacted area of tens of thousands of square miles. Our travel time today was limited compared to someone who might have traveled from western Virginia or West Virginia for example.

By only holding this hearing it gives the public the impression that your draft designation is a foregone conclusion and we are merely an inconvenience or an impediment to your predetermined agenda. Multiple hearings should be held in all the counties and jurisdictions affected, so as to make it convenient for public participation, not the opposite. Further, your issuance of the draft designation potentially runs contrary to the intent of Congress. Members and Senators will shortly be considering legislation such as HR 809 and HR 829, to limit the federal role in transmission line-siting and correct this oversight, which was a minor title in the much larger “Energy Policy Act of 2005”.

Many Members of Congress have publicly expressed their reservations about and opposition to Section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act, which was not debated on the House floor, and authorized this unprecedented federal power grab.

For the first time in our history, the authority of the states to approve the siting of transmission lines has been usurped by the federal government. The 10th amendment to the constitution, states “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.” How the NIETC designation comports with the US Constitution, has yet to be explained to me.

Thomas Jefferson, one of our framers and later 3rd President of the United States, once said “The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground”. How prophetic Jefferson was and one can only imagine how he and the other framers would react to this, were they alive today.