

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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May 1, 2017

Jessica Hood, Executive Director
Burke County Development Authority
241 East 6th Street
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Dear Director Hood:

On behalf of the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, our chapter the Concerned Citizens of Shell Bluff and members in Burke County, we request to have an opportunity to present to the Burke County Development Authority a proposal for safe, clean electric power. The goal of this proposal is to replace present polluting forms of electric power generation including coal, natural gas, biomass and nuclear with a combination of various types of solar and wind, and to accomplish a 100% transition to these forms of power by 2050. An interim goal would be to attain 80% transition by 2030. The proposal would be beneficial to the economy, the environment and public health. The program does not require major advances in energy technology because it relies on known methods of generating electric power from the sun and wind. Finally, the transition would not cause additional electric power rate increases. In fact, the economic impact estimate would create annual cost savings per person of \$293 at mid-century. And the land usage for the wind and solar projects would be minimal.

This proposal is based on extensive analysis done under the direction of Dr. Mark Jacobson of Stanford University. Dr. Jacobson is professor of civil and environmental engineering, the Director of the Atmosphere/Energy Program and a Senior Fellow at Woods Institute for the Environment. In a 132-page peer-reviewed paper published in 2015, Jacobson and his associates present their findings.¹ Attached to this letter is the 6-page expert testimony Dr. Jacobson provided to the United States House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce, also in 2015. The analysis by Dr. Jacobson is remarkable in that he has done detailed state-by-state estimates of how to reach the 100% transition for all 50 states, and, because the impact of climate change is global, for 139 other countries. I have included a two-page synopsis for Georgia with this letter covering electricity, transportation, heating and cooling, and industry, powered entirely by wind, water, and sunlight

We understand that the Burke County Development Authority offers incentive packages for industries to locate here. We would be happy to present further information to the Authority to explore the transition to 100% clean, safe electric power.

As you may know, there is a shadow over the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant caused by economic woes of Westinghouse, the designer and builder of the partially constructed AP1000 reactors at Units 3 and 4. Both projects are now three years or more behind

¹ "100% clean and renewable wind, water, and sunlight (WWS) all-sector energy roadmaps for the 50 United States," *Energy Environ. Sci.*, 2015, 8, 2093, Mark Z. Jacobson, Mark A. Delucchi, Guillaume Bazouin, Zack A. F. Bauer, Christa C. Heavey, Emma Fisher, Sean B. Morris, Diniana J. Y. Piekutowski, Taylor A. Vencilla and Tim W. Yeskooa

schedule and billions of dollars over budget.² Toshiba-Westinghouse announced earlier this year it was no longer going to provide support for those reactor designs because of the ongoing economic failures at nuclear plants presently under construction. The volume of press coverage of the company's precarious financial position has been growing for months.³ At present, Toshiba is preparing a write-down of more than \$6.2 billion in losses for Westinghouse's terminated nuclear programs.⁴

We believe that the Burke County Development Authority would benefit by requesting an update on the financial status of Toshiba-Westinghouse and its potential impacts on Vogtle Units 3 and 4, and also to request that no additional cost increases will be passed along to Burke County ratepayers for this failed nuclear endeavor. The costs associated with such delays and cost overruns are the direct cause of Toshiba-Westinghouse's economic failure and potential bankruptcy.

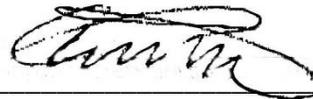
Southern Nuclear Operating Company and its project partners have spent huge sums for Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4 with absolutely nothing to show for it. Can the Authority be assured that development and construction costs for Vogtle 3 and 4 are reasonable and prudent? Will Southern Company continue to waste money on this project, causing additional stranded costs to be borne by Burke County ratepayers? What steps can you take to ensure that no additional financial burden will be passed along to ratepayers for this failed endeavor? What Burke County does now will affect its future for decades to come. The good news is that we can do very well without nuclear, coal and natural gas power.

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today. We look forward to making a comprehensive proposal to the Burke County Development Authority.

Respectfully,



Louis A. Zeller, Executive Director



Charles N. Utley, Associate Director

² The New York Times, "The murky future of nuclear power in the United States," <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/18/business/energy-environment/nuclear-power-westinghouse-toshiba.html> (February 18, 2017)

³ Atlanta Business Journal, "Report: Toshiba to stop building nuclear reactors," www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/.../reporttoshiba-to-stop-building-nuclear-reactors.html (Feb 1, 2017); Reuters, "Toshiba prepares to unveil nuclear hole, other perils threaten," <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/toshiba-prepares-unveil-nuclear-hole-230001103.html> (February 17, 2017); Bloomberg, "How Toshiba lost \$6 billion," www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-02-17/how-toshiba-lost-6-billion (February 17, 2017); Charlotte Observer, "Facing big losses, Toshiba contemplates Westinghouse bankruptcy," www.charlotteobserver.com/news/business/article134729884.html (February 24, 2017)

⁴ Forbes, "Toshiba announces \$6.3 B writedown on a \$229 M construction," <https://www.forbes.com/sites/rodadams/2017/02/14/toshiba-chairman-resigns-after-company-announces-6-3-billion-writedown/#1ac0ccf229fc> (Feb 14, 2017)