Hi Ms. Rathi-

As a Virginian who volunteers in support of nonpartisan climate solutions, I have limited expertise on public utility policy and finance. I nevertheless have concerns regarding the current functioning of incentives and disincentives in electricity production in Virginia. For example, I have been pleased by the role of financial incentives in convincing Dominion Power to go all-in on offshore wind, with thousands of megawatts scheduled to come online over the next few years. But at the same time, the rapid expansion of data center construction in Virginia is creating such an enormous demand for new electricity supplies that Dominion is also planning to construct several methane-powered "peaker" plants including one a few miles from my home in Dutch Gap in Chesterfield County.

As someone who fully accepts science regarding the consequences of climate change to future generations, I am concerned that the frightening consequences of fossil fuel use, as well as the human deaths from air pollution, are nowhere to be found in the pricing of fossil fuels in Virginia. True, RGGI might be restored to life by the Courts in Virginia, and this would be a real-world means of putting the externalized costs of fossil fuels back into the actual pricing of the product. but we are not there yet.

I am heartened that the SCC process of "evaluating the potential of performance-based and alternative regulatory tools to modernize the regulation of investor-owned electric utilities" includes best practices on decarbonization. I feel that decarbonization is just as important as controlling costs for ratepayers. Could our incentives favor efficiency, as well as expanding generation? Efficiency decreases the daunting amount of new electricity that is being required to meet demand. It therefore meets both needs: decarbonization, and money savings for rate payers.

thanks

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