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Kristin Dozier

Leon County Commissioner District 5

Dear Friends:

Beginning in mid-February, my office started receiving calls and emails from residents along Tram Road who were noticing survey work being done along the sides of the roadway. Several constituents also reported being approached by representatives seeking portions of their private property for a utility easement. This was very alarming to me since no County staff or anyone from Talquin Electric had any knowledge of these activities or any planned project.

Over the next few weeks we learned that Gulf Power (through their parent company, NextEra Energy) was planning a high-power transmission line which would cut right through Leon County. The project is being designed to link customers in portions of the western Panhandle to power lines in Suwanee County.

If constructed through Leon County the transmission line project could impact many residents along Tram Road and other areas of our county. If the preferred route is allowed to proceed, the 90-foot concrete transmission line poles could result in reduced property values, loss of property and homes, and dramatically impact the quality of life for residents. We are also concerned about the potential environmental impact on our springs and aquifer, the impact to historic structures, and the potential safety hazard of placing large concrete poles on a two-lane, rural road with few street lights.

Below, I am including the recent actions that the County Commission took to address this issue. The Tallahassee City Commission and Jefferson County Commission also raised the issue and took action. I am proud to work with my colleagues on the Leon County Commission, with City of Tallahassee and in Jefferson County as we stand together to support residents in the affected area.

If there is ever anything I can help you with, please feel free to call me (850) 606-5375 or just email me at dozierk@leoncountyfl.gov. You can also find me on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



*Photo Credit: Bob Howard from 2017
Word of South Festival*

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Actions taken by the Leon County Commission

At our April 23rd County Commission meeting I brought this issue up to my colleagues and we took immediate action. The Commission unanimously voted to send a letter to Gulf Power/NextEra Energy expressing our concern and objections to the project. We are also demanding more information about environmental impacts, transmission line routes and pole locations for the project.

The Commission also voted to send letters to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Division of Historical Resources, seeking public records related to environmental permits being sought and any archaeological reports for the proposed route.

[Read the letter to Gulf Power/NextEra Energy here.](#)

[Read the letter to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection here.](#)

[Read the letter to the Florida Division of Historical Resources here.](#)

Actions taken by the Tallahassee City Commission

On April 24th the Tallahassee City Commission echoed the concerns of County Commissioners and residents about the transmission project. Commissioners opposed the project based on the current route down Tram Road and expressed concerns about the secretive nature that Gulf Power/NextEra used to approach the project.

City Commissioners voted 4-0 to direct the City Manager to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Gulf Power/NextEra Energy to co-locate its transmission lines onto 14 miles of city-owned utility poles. Final action on an MOU will take place at a future City Commission meeting.

I am grateful that Commissioners Matlow and Richardson said they would not approve the final MOU if it included Tram Road. I also applaud my City colleges for voicing their concerns about the environmental impacts and support for County residents. Comments made by City Commissioners help demonstrate that we stand together to protect North Florida.

Actions taken by the Jefferson County Commission

Last evening the Jefferson County Commission unanimously approved working with Leon County

as we voice our opposition to the proposed Gulf Power/NextEra Energy transmission line project. The Jefferson County Commission will be sending a similar letter to Gulf Power/NextEra Energy stating their concerns and opposition to the project.

I was honored to stand along so many concerned residents at their Commission meeting to provide an update on recent actions taken by the Leon County Commission and by the Tallahassee City Commission.

Local news coverage about this project

[*'County governments worry but have little sway over transmission line project'*](#) - Tallahassee Democrat

[*'Trace the 176-mile path of the proposed power line project that includes 7 rural counties'*](#) - Tallahassee Democrat

[*'City commissioners decry Tram Road route for power line project as county demands answers'*](#) - Tallahassee Democrat

[*'Wakulla Springs Alliance writes letter opposing NextEra transmission power line route'*](#) - WCTV

[*'Tram Road residents protest transmission power line project'*](#) - WCTV



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