December 13, 2023

Honorable Roy A. Cooper
Governor of North Carolina

cc: Attorney General Josh Stein

Subject: Need for unprecedented, open review of Duke Energy’s plans for questionable projects that would hamper climate action and harm communities

Dear Governor Cooper,

The undersigned businesses and nonprofits seek your timely action to openly clarify what are Duke Energy’s plans for hundreds of miles of new and expanded power lines and cleared corridors in North Carolina. We call for you to address the questions detailed in NC WARN’s June 26 request for your investigation, particularly the strong need for an unprecedented type of open decision-making over this state’s energy-climate future.

We are concerned that Duke Energy’s plan to invest some $10 billion in high-voltage transmission could negatively impact marginalized communities and statewide power bills. It appears that Duke’s plans would also delay meaningful efforts to help slow the climate crisis that is disproportionately impacting many of these same communities.

Scores of scientists and solar companies have urged you to stop Duke Energy’s huge expansion of fracked gas-fired power generation and its years-long suppression of competition from cheaper renewables and efficiency programs. Local solar-plus-storage – in installations of various sizes – could be scaled up quickly and provide an equitable approach to climate and energy.

We urge you to commence an unprecedented, open discussion about alternatives to Duke’s costly, secretive plan, which was quietly approved by your NC Utilities Commission as part of the 2022 Carbon Plan, with only a very limited evidentiary hearing.
Because Duke Energy's monopoly-driven motivations could lock in Duke’s plans for large amounts of fracked gas-fired generation and even risky nuclear projects, thus the state's energy and climate policies for decades, we seek your immediate action. We ask that you respond to this request by January 10.

Respectfully,

Jim Warren
Executive Director, NC WARN

Greentech Renewables Raleigh
Seeds of HOPE (Lumberton, NC)
West End Revitalization Association
8MSolar
Down East Coal Ash Environmental and Social Justice Coalition
Firefly Solar
NC Climate Solutions Coalition
Charlotte Mecklenburg NAACP
Beloved Community Center
Center for Progressive Reform
The Climate Reality Project, Durham Chapter
Elite Energy LLC
NC Alliance to Protect Our People and the Places We Live
NC Climate Justice Collective
Cisco Systems
Environmental Working Group
CleanAIRE NC
NC Environmental Justice Network
Dogwood Alliance
7 Directions of Service
NC Interfaith Power & Light
Concerned Citizens of Richmond County
SolarTyme
SolaireNC LLC
350 Triangle
350 Charlotte
Sunrise Movement, Durham
Sunrise Movement, Asheville
Sunrise Movement, Charlotte
| The Farthest Pixel                              | Full Moon Farm, Inc. |
| Rivendell Mobile Large Animal Vet             | Buddha LLC           |
| Carolina Total Wellness                       | DiVanni, Inc.        |
| Therapeutiks, Inc.                            | Dr Tracey and Healing Connections LLC |
| Derrough LLC                                  | Butterflies for Kids |
| Integral Counseling Services                  | Rachel Moon’s Alterations |