



JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION

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To Establish a *Jefferson County First Economic Development Strategy*

WHEREAS, market forces and trends are significantly increasing demand to reside, to invest, to do business, and to recreate in Jefferson County, causing a steady rise in the value of land;

WHEREAS, the vast majority of land in Jefferson County is owned by private citizens who largely respond to market forces and trends to make decisions for the use of their land according to their will;

WHEREAS, the tax structure in West Virginia and Jefferson County is attractive to those who prefer lower taxes and more freedom, but the cost of government services is increasingly difficult to meet as more residents move to the County and corresponding commercial growth lags behind;

WHEREAS, Jefferson County leads West Virginia in tourism, bringing \$876.2 million in tourism-related spending for our economy, based on preserving the scenic vistas and beauty of Jefferson County that are put at risk by transmission lines that are sited without regard for our strong existing tourism industry;

WHEREAS, Jefferson County leads West Virginia in population and industry growth, Jefferson County has seen a significant increase in population over the last decade. In 2024 the population is estimated to be approximately 60,573 which is a 12.98% increase over 2010. Jefferson County would be put at additional risk by transmission lines that are in conflict with planned 20 year adopted growth areas under our 2045 comprehensive plan; newly developed high-density residential subdivisions; and newly developed and planned commercial developments within our county that are vital for the continued economic prosperity of Jefferson county;

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Commission is a limited government that cannot infringe on the personal property rights of landowners, but is empowered by the State of West Virginia to apply zoning regulations as limited by state, federal, and constitutional law; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Commission has limited authority and must abide by state and federal law, such as those governing the siting of interstate transmission lines or the building of roads; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Commission is limited in its authority but may represent the best interests of its citizens before state and federal governing bodies, and interstate transmission siting authorities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Jefferson County Commission that:

1. Jefferson County opposes the seizing of private property of our citizens to serve economic development in Loudoun County, Virginia; and
2. Jefferson County supports economic development in West Virginia to capitalize on West Virginia resources to economically develop and to serve Jefferson County first, to create jobs, prosperity, new tax revenue, and services for our citizens; and
3. If the PJM transmission line is approved and executed by outside government agencies despite opposition by the Jefferson County Commission, then Jefferson County supports local economic development and investment to benefit Jefferson County first, such as new businesses and technology industries including data centers; and
4. Jefferson County supports training students and workers for technical and trade jobs brought by new businesses and technology industries, and further supports fostering partnerships with county schools and educational institutions, such as training or vocational programs, scholarships, and career development programs; and
5. A Jefferson County First economic development strategy includes balancing residential growth with new commercial growth to benefit our citizens so that Jefferson County is a well-rounded community for people of all ages to live, work, and play. Jefferson County First does not include taking of land in Jefferson County to power Loudoun County data centers and provide jobs, prosperity, services, and tax benefits to Loudoun County, Virginia.

Pasha Majdi
Jefferson County Commission President

Jacqueline C. Shadle
Jefferson County Clerk