



1108 E. Main Street
Suite 603
Richmond, VA 23219

October 18, 2012

Thomas Farrell
CEO, Dominion Virginia Power
701 East Cary Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Mr. Farrell:

As the director of an organization that represents nearly 20,000 supporters in Virginia—most of whom live within Dominion Virginia Power's service territory—and as a regional leader within the movement for a clean energy future, I am writing you for a second time to invite you to a public debate on the topic of how best to provide clean energy for Virginia ratepayers.

Our nation was founded on the idea that the free and open exchange of ideas is the best way to achieve public prosperity. Indeed, during this season of national debates over national policies, we are reminded once again that the free flow of information lies at the heart of what we stand for as a people.

In this spirit of transparency, and with the economic and environmental welfare of all Virginians at stake, I would like to invite you to pick a location, time, and the rules of debate for a public discussion of your company's scheduled \$76 million bonus from ratepayers connected to controversial energy purchases. I invite you to personally participate in this debate, making the case for your company's bonus while I offer evidence that this bonus is undeserved.

As you know, Virginia utilities can earn special bonuses under the state's voluntary Renewable Portfolio Standard. As you also know, these bonuses are intended—by state law—to promote new sources of clean energy for Virginia. However, according to widely circulated recent press reports, Dominion has been awarded bonuses by the State Corporation Commission—averaging more than \$100,000 per day over two years—without providing the state a single kilowatt hour of solar or wind power. Instead, your company is relying on old, mostly out-of-state energy facilities, including hydropower dams built 100 years ago and facilities that burn garbage and wood products.

I believe this choice of energy is not what the people of this state want for their renewable energy future. Indeed, recent polling shows that 63 percent of Virginians surveyed chose wind and solar power as their preferred clean energy sources. They did not prefer the hydro power and energy from wood and trash combustion that Dominion is currently calling renewable power and asking ratepayers to pay for through \$100,000-per-day in bonuses to your corporation.

Again, I appeal to you to pick the time, the place, and the debating rules for this public discussion. In the past, you too have called for honest and open conversations about energy,

saying in 2008: “If we can find a way to inject more candor and straight talk into the national energy debate, we will have taken an important step in moving from the realm of mythology to 21st Century reality.”

I couldn't agree more. For the people of Virginia and our children's future, please agree to this debate.

Sincerely,

Mike Tidwell

Director, cell 240-460-5838, mtidwell@chesapeakeclimate.org