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As data center providers, customers, and colocation service providers with operations in Virginia, we prefer electricity that is generated by clean, renewable energy. We are writing to express concern regarding the re-stated intentions of energy providers to meet our energy demand with expensive fossil fuel projects.

Data centers power the modern economy. We provide the internet and cloud services that today's businesses, consumers, nonprofits, and hospitals rely on to operate efficiently and with greater productivity. It is estimated that as much as 70 percent of the world's internet traffic flows through Virginia data centers. According to the Northern Virginia Technology Council, the data center industry is responsible for creating more than $10.2 billion in annual economic output, 43,000 jobs, and $349 million in state and local tax revenue in Virginia alone.

Given the significance of our growing and energy-intensive industry in relation to total energy demand in Virginia, companies' data center energy interests should be taken into account in decisions regarding the future of the region's energy infrastructure. In particular:

- **Companies providing or using data centers want to power our operations with renewable energy resources like wind and solar.** When procured competitively, renewable energy allows us to save money, meet the expectations of our investors and customers, and do our part to be more responsible stewards of the environment. An increasing number of businesses, both those in and outside the data center industry, have publicly committed to power their operations with 100 percent renewable energy.

- **Data centers are at the forefront of innovative energy-efficient technologies to reduce the energy burden of our operations.** Rapid technological advancements are allowing us to run our servers more efficiently and reduce our reliance on the grid. With each passing year these advancements contribute to a reduced growth in our overall energy demand.

- **Energy storage technologies are here today and should be integrated into grid planning.** Energy storage projects facilitate the integration of renewable energy resources, provide numerous benefits to the grid, and mitigate the need for natural gas peaker plants. "Solar plus storage" projects are beating out the price of new gas plants, and data centers are already proving the effectiveness of storage in our 24/7 operations.

- **Grid planners should take these points into account before building expensive fossil-fuel infrastructure projects.** Any such investments should be closely assessed for their

lifetime cost to ratepayers (for both the infrastructure and associated fuel costs), the likelihood of becoming an early stranded asset, and actual customer demand for fossil fuel-powered electricity.

Dominion Energy's re-filed proposed 2018 Integrated Resource Plan again fails to fully take into account the energy preferences of the data center industry—by limiting the amount of competitively-procured solar energy, neglecting to consider energy storage as a cost-effective and beneficial energy resource, and continuing to plan for the development of additional natural gas infrastructure.

Companies providing or using data centers are proud to offer fast, high-quality internet and cloud services, and we are grateful for access to abundant, reliable, low-cost energy that enables us to do so. However, a clean, flexible, and dynamic grid – replete with renewable energy and modern energy technologies – is the way of the future. It is vital that the energy investments being made today are forward-thinking and truly serve the best interest of ratepayers, the economy, and the planet for generations to come.

Signed,

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