

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 25, 2021

The Honorable Charlotte Lane  
Chair, West Virginia Public Service Commission  
201 Brooks Street  
Charleston, WV 25301

Dear Chair Lane,

The West Virginia Public Service Commission's (WVPSC) mission statement calls on its members "to appraise and balance the interests of current and future utility service customers with the general interest of the state's economy and the interests of the utilities." As you consider the proposal before you regarding the future of the Mitchell Power Plant, we urge you to consider the devastating economic impacts to West Virginia if the plant prematurely closes.

Late last year, American Electric Power (AEP) filed an application with the WVPSC providing for two options:

1. Invest in modifications at the Mitchell Power Plant to comply with two federal regulations governing the disposal of coal combustion residuals (CCRs) and effluent limitation guidelines (ELGs) which would allow the plant to operate through 2040; or
2. Retire the plant early in 2028.

The Mitchell Power Plant is a significant economic driver in Marshall County and throughout the state of West Virginia. Closing the Mitchell Power Plant would have ripple effects throughout the region and would devastate West Virginia coal miners who provide almost all of its coal. It would hurt the tax revenue needed to fund Marshall County's public schools and first responders. And it would destroy the businesses in the region like machine shops, barge operators and restaurants who directly or indirectly rely on the plant and the mines that supply the coal for it.

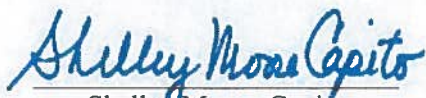
In addition to supporting numerous jobs in the surrounding communities, the Mitchell Power Plant provides the fuel diversity needed to provide residential, commercial and industrial ratepayers in the region with reliable and resilient electricity. There's no question that West Virginia coal and the electricity it generates is critical to our state's economy.

The WVPSC is charged with balancing the interests of West Virginians with the general interest of the West Virginia's economy and the interests of the utilities. Making the investments needed to keep the Mitchell Power Plant in operation through 2040 far outweigh the destruction to our state's economy and workforce that would come with the plant's early retirement.

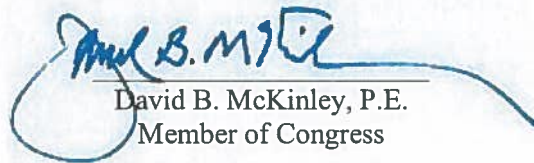
In order to protect the thousands of West Virginians who would be negatively impacted, we humbly ask the WVPSC to consider these devastating impacts that would come with the plant's premature closure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator



David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress



Alex X. Mooney  
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress

CC: Governor Jim Justice  
Commissioner Renee Larrick  
Commissioner Brooks McCabe