

DALE W. STRONG
5TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
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June 6, 2023

Mr. Jeffrey Lyash
President and Chief Executive Officer
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 W. Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

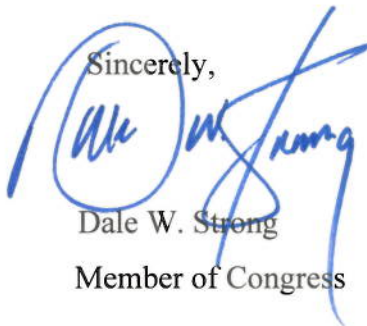
Dear Mr. Lyash,

As we enter the summer months, I write to express my concerns regarding the resiliency of the power grid which services my district. December 2022's Winter Storm Elliott saw the first ever implementation of energy load reductions - colloquially referred to as "rolling blackouts" - by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in its ninety-year history. Customers across North Alabama, ranging from rural electric cooperatives to large business entities, rely on TVA for their power. In fact, they have no other option. In return, these customers expect reliable, uninterrupted service. I remain concerned that, should a weather event occur that places temperatures outside the normal range, the people of North Alabama may find themselves again subject to these rolling blackouts.

This upcoming summer is forecasted to bring excessive stress on power grids across the country. According to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's "Summer Reliability Assessment" released this month, the SERC Reliability Corporation's Central Region, which includes Tennessee and large swaths of North Alabama, is assessed as having "elevated" seasonal risk. The elevated designation denotes the potential for insufficient reserves in above-normal conditions. The SERC Central Region is the only region of the Southeast that is not listed as "low" risk.

Given North Alabama's burgeoning economy and population growth, we must ensure that our infrastructure can meet the needs of existing and incoming government organizations, business entities, residents, and all those wishing to make North Alabama their home. I appreciate TVA's willingness to address its system's shortcomings this past winter in its "Winter Storm Elliott After Action Report." However, I remain skeptical that the proposed solutions adequately address potential near-term resiliency insufficiencies of the power grid that services North Alabama. As such, I respectfully request that you provide my office with details on the short-term steps that TVA has taken to ensure that its grid remains fully operational, and its customers experience no interruption in service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dale W. Strong", is written over the typed name. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Dale W. Strong

Member of Congress

CC: Members of the TVA Board of Directors

Chairman Joe Ritch, Beth Geer, Beth Harwell, Bobby Klein, Michelle Moore, Brian Noland, Bill Renick, Bill Kilbride, and Wade White