



AppalachianVoices

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Dear Prize Administrator,

Appalachian Voices respectfully submits this letter of support for the town of Pennington Gap's application to the Solutions for Lasting, Viable Energy Infrastructure Technologies (SOLVE IT) Prize. Pennington Gap's proposed Phase One activities will allow the town to overcome identified barriers to making significant progress towards their clean energy goals, while also setting them up for success in Phase Two.

Appalachian Voices is a regional nonprofit organization focused on environmental justice and sustainable economic development. We opened our office in Norton in 2015 and have been working with coalfield localities in Southwest Virginia to create thriving energy communities in the wake of the transition away from coal ever since. A large portion of our work has focused on an economically-just energy transition to renewable energy technologies such as solar and battery storage.

We have been thrilled to partner with Pennington Gap and see how they are leading the region in community-supported energy and resiliency projects. Some of our other current partnerships with the town include an E.P.A. grant to create a community-drive disaster resiliency project and a recently-awarded Community Flood Preparedness Fund grant to conduct a wetlands study and flood-mitigating Scoping Plan for floodplains near their town hall.

In conclusion, Appalachian Voices is excited to partner with Pennington Gap for Phase One of this prize and be a part of reducing energy burden while promoting clean energy projects in the coalfields. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Kind Regards,

Adam Wells

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