



October 26, 2022

Mayor Levar Stoney
900 E. Broad Street, Suite 201
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Dominion's Clean Energy Park Proposal

Dear Mayor Stoney:

We at the Partnership for Smarter Growth join many community members who are concerned about and disagree with Dominion Energy's plan to install a "clean energy park" at 701 E Cary Street. While we support efforts to move to greener energy and infrastructure, including electric vehicles, this proposal would take up an entire city block in the heart of our downtown primarily for automobiles.

Creating an EV parking area would be contrary to the vision outlined for this area in the City's Richmond 300 Master Plan, which is designated as Downtown Mixed-Use. Richmond 300 seeks to encourage urban design that promotes pedestrian and bicycle use and is transit-oriented.

While Dominion's proposal does include limited green space, there is already a public green space, Kanawha plaza, directly across the street. Kanawha plaza itself is an underutilized green space that should be made more accessible to the surrounding area by redesigning the surrounding high-speed roads. Instead of installing 28 charging stations in the middle of the downtown core, Dominion could fund charging stations at schools and apartment buildings in the city to encourage cleaner forms of transportation.

At a time when the City of Richmond is attempting to free itself from vacant lots and large parking lots, this proposal would be directly contrary to the dense, mixed-use vision for this area. This centrally located lot should be redeveloped into office or residential (including affordable housing) with active ground floor uses, generating more tax revenue for the city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stewart Schwab". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "S".

President

CC: Councilmember Ellen Robertson