

October 31, 2023

TVA Board of Directors  
400 West Summit Hill Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37902

Re: Public Listening Session

*"We recognize that public participation is a process, not a single event. It consists of a series of activities and actions by a utility over the entire lifespan of a project to inform the public and obtain input from them. Most importantly, public participation allows stakeholders to influence local decisions that affect the community."*

~American Public Power Association

[Environmental Justice: The Roles and Responsibilities of Public Power](#)

Dear TVA Board of Directors:

At the past few TVA Board Listening Sessions, several people who signed up to give public comments were not able to speak because the number of speakers exceeded the amount of time allocated for the speaking time. **We write to ask that TVA meet the public's desire to give testimony by extending the listening session. We feel this is an immediate and important improvement TVA could make in advance of the Nov. 8 board listening session.** People travel for hours and incur expenses to be able to speak to TVA's board.

Also we would like to reiterate other suggestions that have previously been brought to TVA's attention by some of our groups that would help TVA fulfill its purpose as a public power entity. We recommend that TVA:

- Advertise board listening sessions more broadly and well in advance of the board meeting
- Increase the time limit for each speaker or allow organizations to pool their time to make a longer presentation about a specific topic
- Live stream listening sessions and offer virtual public comment, prioritizing in-person comments first
- Allow same day speaker registration for in-person and online participants
- Allow Board member interaction with the public during and after the session by permitting board members to ask clarifying questions of the speaker
- Make the agenda and related materials and documents available online for public review at least 2 weeks in advance of the board's meeting

- Decide on a setting that does not intimidate people wanting to participate (i.e. no raised stages, less formal speaking process)
- Make written and presented comments available to the public

We know that TVA agrees that public involvement is vital to the quality of TVA decision making. It should be a vital part of TVA's culture, too.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to review the suggestions we offer and commit to being more accessible to the public going forward. Our families and businesses are directly affected by TVA leaders' decisions, every single day, and we deserve to be meaningfully included in the process behind those decisions.

We stand ready to work with you to improve opportunities for public engagement, and we are willing to talk to you or your staff in more detail.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/

**Amy Kelly**  
**Sierra Club**

**Gaby Sarri-Tobar**  
**Center for Biological Diversity**

**Bri Knisley**  
**Appalachian Voices**

**Joe Franklin**  
**Democratic Socialists of America - Knoxville, TN**

**Lea Campbell**  
**Mississippi Rising Coalition**

**Paul Klein**  
**Climate Reality Project: Tennessee State Coalition**

**Dan Joranko**  
**Climate Nashville**

**Courtney Shea**  
**Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light**

**Chelsea Howard**  
**Tupelo Mutual Aid**

**Jan Berry**  
**Citizens' Climate Education**  
**Tennessee Chapters**

**Dr. Catherine Robinson**  
**One Voice**

**Sarah Houston**  
**Protect Our Aquifer**

**Jonathan Neal-Thompson**  
**Sunrise Movement Nashville**

**Sheree Martin**  
**Energy Alabama**

**Yolonda Spinks**  
**Memphis Community Against Pollution**

**Jeffrey Barrie**  
**Tennessee Environmental Council**