



# NAACP

October 7, 2016

Attn: Morris L. Woodruff, Secretary  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
200 Madison Street, PO Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

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Public Service Commission*

Dear Missouri Public Service Commissioners,

Since 1909, the NAACP has addressed a vast array of civil rights issues including education, employment, housing, health, and civic engagement. As St. Louis's oldest and largest civil rights organization, we encourage you to approve the Grain Belt Express Clean Line and help move Missouri forward. The Grain Belt Express is a much-needed project that will benefit consumers by increasing Missouri's supply of low-cost clean energy. Low-cost electricity is good for Missourians and can help attract new business to the state, as well.

Historically, communities of color nationwide are, beset by civil and human rights violations, including disproportionate exposure to pollution, crime, substandard living conditions and more. Unfortunately, African Americans who reside near energy production facilities such as coal-fired power plants are more likely to suffer the negative health impacts of prolonged exposure to smog, lead, arsenic, sulfur dioxide, and other toxins than any other group of Americans. Approximately 68% of African Americans live within 30 miles of a coal-fired power plant, which produces the largest proportion of energy compared to any other energy production type. Therefore, the NAACP is committed to take action on advancing policies and practices to ensure that the U.S. shifts to energy efficiency and clean energy, while strengthening regulations to safeguard communities from polluting facilities.

Community involvement in paving new energy pathways is particularly important because our energy system is broken and communities of color are paying the highest price. The St. Louis City NAACP's Climate Justice Initiative was created to educate and mobilize the community to address the impact of climate change on our community as well as opportunities for leadership in a new green economy. We hope you join this commitment to bring our energy system into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by allowing access to low-cost clean energy that will be facilitated by the Grain Belt Express Clean Line.

Sincerely

Adolphus M. Pruitt, II, President  
St. Louis City Branch NAACP  
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