

Local Public Hearing Vol 9 - September 4, 2014

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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
Local Public Hearing
September 4, 2014
Rupe Community Center
Carrollton, Missouri
Volume 9

In The Matter Of The)
Application Of Grain Belt)
Express Clean Line LLC)
For A Certificate Of)
Convenience And Necessity)
Authorizing It To) FILE NO. EA-2014-0207
Construct, Own, Operate,)
Control, Manage, And)
Maintain A High Voltage,)
Direct Current)
Transmission Line And An)
Associated Converter)
Station Providing An)
Interconnection On The)
Maywood -- Montgomery 345)
kV Transmission Line,)

Judge Michael Bushman, Presiding
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

Robert S. Kenney, Chairman,
Stephen M. Stoll,
William P. Kenney,
Daniel Y. Hall,

COMMISSIONERS

REPORTER BY: Lisa Ballalatak

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APPEARANCES

Judge Michael Bushman, Regulatory Law Judge
Chairman Robert S. Kenney
Commissioner Stephen M. Stoll
Commissioner William P. Kenney
Commissioner Daniel Y. Hall

Reported by:

The Court Reporter:

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1 (The hearing commenced at 6:01 p.m.)

2 MR. BUSHMAN: Good afternoon. Today is
3 Thursday, September 4th at 6:00 o'clock p.m. We're
4 in Carrollton, Missouri. Missouri Public Service
5 Commission has set this time for a local publish
6 hearing in the case captioned as: In the matter of
7 the application of Grain Belt Express Clean Line,
8 LLC for a certificate of convenience and necessity
9 authorizing them to construct, own, operate,
10 control, manage, and maintain a high voltage direct
11 current transmission line and an associated
12 converter station providing an inner connection on
13 Maywood-Montgomery 345 KB transmission line. That's
14 File No. EA-2014-0207.

15 My name is Michael Bushman. I'm the
16 regulatory law judge that will be presiding over the
17 hearing this evening. With me are Chairman Robert
18 Kenney and Commissioner Steven Stoll, Bill Kenney,
19 and Daniel Hall.

20 Commissioners, would you like to make any
21 opening statements?

22 MR. KENNEY: Thanks, Judge.

23 Good evening, everybody. Happy to see you
24 all here again. I just want to briefly say thank
25 you for being hear. This is the eighth and final

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1 local public hearing in this matter, and we've had a
2 really good opportunity to hear a lot of feedback on
3 both sides of the equation, and we do appreciate the
4 time that you have all taken to participate in these
5 local public hearings. As you see, the court
6 reporter here will be transcribing the testimony
7 that you provide, and that transcript will be made
8 available to all five of us as we deliberate after
9 the evidentiary hearing that will take place in
10 November in Jefferson City. So thank you, again,
11 for taking the time out of the your evening to
12 participate in this process, and we look forward to
13 hearing your testimony. Thank you.

14 MR. KENNEY: I, too, would like to thank
15 each of you for coming today. I've been able to
16 attend all eight off these public hearings, and
17 we've had a great turnout at all of them, and I
18 appreciate the passion that you landowners have. I
19 was fortunate to raise my four children on a farm.
20 We had a cow/calf operation, and so I understand the
21 love that you have for your land. But I want to
22 also thank you, because I've noticed that everybody
23 in all of our meetings have been so courteous to one
24 another. Courteous to whether you oppose support
25 clean line or whether you support clean line, and

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1 everyone here and in the past meetings should be
2 congratulated for that. And, lastly, I would like
3 to thank the staff of the Missouri Public Service
4 Commission who have made these events possible for
5 you. They sit in the back, and they don't get a lot
6 of notoriety, but they've scheduled all of these,
7 and they've done a fantastic job for each of you so
8 that you can participate in these hearings. So,
9 again, thank you for coming out.

10 MR. STOLL: I will simply thank everybody
11 for coming out tonight. We do look forward to
12 hearing testimony, and one gentleman came up right
13 before this hearing and expressed an interest in
14 maybe watching the evidentiary hearings that come up
15 in November, and that can be seen via the Internet,
16 and our staff can tell you how that is done, but,
17 basically, it's on the Missouri Public Service
18 Commission Web site. So, again, thanks for being
19 hear, and we look forward to your testimony.

20 MR. BUSHMAN: Let's have counsel make
21 their entries of appearance.

22 For Grain Belt Express Clean Line, LLC?

23 MR. STEEL: Jonathan Steel for Grain Belt
24 Express Clean Line, LLC.

25 MR. BUSHMAN: Office of public counsel?

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1 MR. OPITZ: For the office of public
2 counsel, I'm Tim Opitz.

3 MR. BUSHMAN: Commission staff?

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams, Post
5 Office Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

6 MR. BUSHMAN: Missouri landowners
7 alliance?

8 MR. AGATHEN: Paul Agathen from
9 Washington, Missouri, and I also represent
10 David McKnight.

11 MR. BUSHMAN: Are there any other
12 attorneys present representing any of the other
13 parties in the case?

14 Before taking any testimony this evening,
15 I'd like to provide you with some information about
16 the Commission and why the Commission is holding
17 this public hearing.

18 Grain Belt Express applied to the
19 Commission for approval of its plans to construct a
20 high-voltage, direct current transmission line and
21 associated facilities within Buchanan, Clinton,
22 Caldwell, Carroll, Chariton, Randolph, Monroe, and
23 Ralls County, Missouri, as well as an associated
24 converter station in Ralls County. The Commission
25 may grant permission if it finds that the

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1 construction is necessary or convenient for the
2 public service. The commission cannot decide any
3 questions about immanent domain, including whether a
4 particular property could be taken, or the amount of
5 compensation that would be paid. Those are only
6 issues that can be decided in circuit court.

7 As Commissioner Stoll mentioned, the
8 Commission has scheduled an evidentiary hearing in
9 November of this year to take evidence regarding
10 Grain Belt Express's application that has also
11 scheduled hearings in each the counties affected by
12 the proposed transmission line to give members of
13 the public to state their support or their
14 opposition to the project, and that's the purpose of
15 this evening's hearing.

16 For those who would like to provide
17 testimony, I'm going to call the names listed on the
18 sign-up sheet. If you signed up, but testified in
19 the previous hearing, I'll move you to the end of
20 the list. When I call your name, please come up to
21 the podium, I'll put you under oath and ask you
22 where you live, and then you can offer your comments
23 to the Commission. There are a lot of people here
24 that would like to speak, so please try and keep
25 your comments to five minutes, and I will give you a

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1 five-minute warning, and then after that, please
2 conclude your remarks shortly thereafter. The
3 commissioners won't be able to answer any of your
4 questions because they have to remain impartial
5 until after the evidence is presented at the
6 evidentiary hearing. If you do have questions, you
7 can address those to the Commission staff in the
8 back of the room or to the other parties that are
9 here this evening.

10 My final request is to be polite and
11 courteous to everyone who testifies, and treat them
12 as you would like to be treated.

13 Let's start with the first witness this
14 evening, Joe Donald McGaugh.

15 JOSEPH DONALD MCGAUGH,
16 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
17 follows:

18 MR. BUSHMAN: Could you please state your
19 name and spell your last name.

20 MR. MCGAUGH: Joseph Donald McGaugh,
21 M-c-G-a-u-g-h.

22 MR. BUSHMAN: And where do you live?

23 MR. MCGAUGH: 516 West Fourth Street
24 Terrace, Carrollton, Missouri 64633.

25 MR. BUSHMAN: Please go ahead.

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1 MR. MCGAUGH: Thank you. Name is Joe Don
2 McGaugh. It's an honor to serve as state
3 representative in the 39th District covering Ray,
4 Carroll, and Chariton Counties. I first want to
5 thank the Public Service Commission staff and
6 commissioners for being here this evening. Welcome
7 to Carroll County, my hometown of Carrollton.
8 Although I think these are requirements to have
9 these hearings, we do appreciate you in this
10 community. You guys will have a late night tonight.
11 There's a hotel down the street, lots of restaurants
12 up on the square. You know, if you guys want to
13 stimulate our economy, we'd appreciate that, so you
14 guys stick around.

15 Several months ago, I spoke with the
16 former ESE commissioner when I was in Jefferson
17 City, and I asked this individual how much weight
18 they put in the public comment portion, and,
19 basically, the decisions that they made, and to my
20 surprise, they said it was very little. So today I
21 would ask more than anything that you listen to this
22 testimony here today and truly take an account of
23 what is going on. The process we have in this
24 setting is an important one, and I, again,
25 appreciate you for being here and listening to these

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1 folks, both pro and con, and just for information.
2 I believe transparency in this process is a must,
3 and to this point, I've been fairly happy with the
4 process, but my constituents have been informed that
5 this is the second time I've been to this facility
6 to meet with landowners and Clean Line in regards to
7 the project.

8 In regards to the five criteria that the
9 Commission considers in issuing the certificate in
10 necessity, I wanted to touch on two of them: the
11 need for this proposed service, and whether this
12 service is in the public's interest. I'm sure the
13 other three you'll probably hear testimony on, but
14 I'm not going to try to touch on those. I parallel
15 these criteria with the major issues that are at the
16 root of the arguments being brought forward against
17 the project. These arguments being, one, that the
18 project with will not create any benefit to the
19 citizens of the state of Missouri, and that the
20 power is not wanted by consumers in the east, more
21 or less a demand issue, and then throwing in and
22 issue of imminent domain with regards to the
23 project.

24 First, in regards to the need for the
25 service criteria, with the state's implementation of

1 the Missouri renewable energy standard and
2 requirements that it places on energy providers, I
3 believe we must take active steps to make renewable
4 energy a priority. The transmission line and the
5 converter station that will be post in eastern
6 Missouri will direct millions of megawatt hours to
7 consumers who will achieve this priority. There's
8 little doubt that clean, renewable energy is the
9 future and Missourians, and for that matter,
10 Americans will desire affordable energy. There's
11 demand for energy in right or wrong, some of that
12 energy has to be clean energy. This transmission
13 line ensures that we as a state won't be left behind
14 and we'll have an opportunity to be part of that
15 future.

16 Second, in regards to promoting public
17 interest criteria. The arguments I made in regards
18 to the need are just as relevant to public interest
19 criteria, there's a need and there's also a demand.
20 It should be noted, however, and this is in my
21 estimation, this is where the rubber meets the
22 road -- and you have to take into consideration if a
23 quasi-public private entity should have the power of
24 imminent domain.

25 While I'm strictly opposed to private -- a

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1 solely private entity having imminent domain, never,
2 ever should a private individual or a company have
3 the ability to swipe up someone's private property,
4 under the auspices that they can make better benefit
5 of the private. However, there's a reason our
6 founding fathers state in the Fifth Amendment of the
7 US Constitution that private property should not be
8 taken for public use without just compensation. Our
9 founding fathers understood that there were
10 instances which, as a growing investor society, the
11 public would need to make use of private property.
12 The current situation -- we're not talking about
13 strip malls or condos going up on private property,
14 we're talking about our energy supply. Everyone in
15 this room, when they go to turn the lights on, they
16 expect the lights to come on. When they start up
17 their machines and equipment in their businesses,
18 they expect them to run so they can pay their bills
19 and their employees. What we're talking about in
20 regards to the public interest is not only the
21 creation of hundreds of temporary and permanent jobs
22 and a continuing source of property tax revenues to
23 our local political subdivisions, but, more
24 importantly, we're talking about low-cost energy and
25 further reliability in our energy network.

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1 In conclusion, I just want to say that one
2 of the things that makes our community great, my
3 39th District great, is folks know how to be good
4 neighbors, and any time we have a situation like
5 this come up where there's the pro and there's the
6 con, it tends to tear the fabric of our communities
7 just a little bit, so although I've been happy with
8 the things that have gone on before now with
9 contentious issues like this, I would just ask folks
10 to continue to be good neighbors throughout this
11 process, and we look forward to having a decision
12 made. I appreciate you guys very much.

13 MR. BUSHMAN: Any questions?

14 Ivan Dalrymple.

15 IVAN DALRYMPLE,
16 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
17 follows:

18 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
19 spell your last name.

20 MR. DALRYMPLE: Ivan Dalrymple,
21 D-a-l-r-y-m-p-l-e.

22 MR. BUSHMAN: And where do you reside?

23 MR. DALRYMPLE: Sedalia, Missouri.

24 MR. BUSHMAN: Okay. Go ahead.

25 MR. DALRYMPLE: Okay. Good evening and

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1 thank your for the opportunity to speak at the
2 Missouri Public Service Commission hearing today.
3 As stated, I am Ivan Dalrymple, cap manager for
4 General Cable Sedalia, Missouri Plant. On behalf of
5 the General Cable, particularly the 185 of us who
6 live and work in Missouri, I'm here to speak in
7 favor of the Grain Belt Express Clean
8 Line Transmission project. The Grain Belt Express
9 Clean Line is an approximately 750 mile direct
10 current transmission line that will deliver
11 low-cost, reliable, renewable energy from western
12 Kansas to Missouri and states further. General
13 Cable has been designated as the preferred supplier
14 of high voltage conductor for the Grain Belt Express
15 transmission line, and we will manufacture
16 23 million feet of steel coil for the conductor in
17 Sedalia, Missouri.

18 As one of Sedalia's manufacturing
19 companies, projects, such as the Grain Belt Express
20 drives continuous improvement of our own facility's
21 modernization, and when technologies improve, so
22 does our competitors. This is good for our company,
23 good for our associates, also good for the state of
24 Missouri and the City of Sedalia. Structured
25 projects like Grain Belt Express are critical to

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1 General Cable's investments decisions and the
2 supporter agreement, General Cable will invest in
3 our Sedalia facility. General Cable also supports
4 Clean Line's goal of developing in a local
5 supply chain. We will purchase aluminum rod in
6 Missouri from our supplier partner Noranda Aluminum.
7 This partnership will support a capacity expansion
8 of Noranda Smelter near New Madrid.

9 General Cable, Sedalia Associates, and
10 supplier partners will benefit from a steady stream
11 of work over the life of the project, and once the
12 project has been completed, General Cable and all of
13 Missouri will benefit by having access to low cost
14 clean power. Missouri is a manufacturing state, and
15 low electricity prices are important to manufactures
16 currently here or considering coming. Through Clean
17 Line's partnerships and their commitment to working
18 with qualified local suppliers and Missouri
19 manufacturers, like General Cable, and other
20 companies like Noranda, we will see an increased
21 amount for products, and other Missouri companies
22 should also benefit, creating a positive effect in
23 the state's economy as a whole. Big infrastructure
24 projects like this help a company decide where to
25 invest and where to hire. This project will help

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1 keep our Sedalia factory humming for approximately
2 two years, and up to date with the latest
3 technology.

4 I am proud to say that General Cable is an
5 environmentally conscious company, and aligning with
6 Clean Line energy in their efforts to transmit green
7 energy across Missouri to areas of high demand in
8 the Grain Belt regions is an excellent opportunity
9 for us to support an impact and growth of renewable
10 energy. We need to encourage investment in these
11 transmission systems with partners like Clean
12 Line Energy, General Cable's transpower
13 transmission, aluminum conductor will transmit
14 energy from renewable sources near and far to
15 populations centered in the Green Belt region and
16 beyond. It is good for the environment, and it is
17 good for the state of Missouri.

18 Thank you for your time this evening, and
19 I appreciate the opportunity to speak in front of
20 the Commission. Thank you.

21 MR. BUSHMAN: Any questions?

22 MR. KENNEY: Yes. Mr. Dalrymple, is it?

23 MR. DALRYMPLE: That's correct.

24 MR. KENNEY: I just have two questions.

25 Number one, you said you've been chosen by Grain

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1 Belt as a supplier?

2 MR. DALRYMPLE: We have been chosen as a
3 preferred supplier.

4 MR. KENNEY: What is that -- can you
5 expound on that? What does that mean, a preferred
6 supplier?

7 MR. DALRYMPLE: Well, it means that we
8 would have the opportunity to make the steel coil
9 for the full amount of the transmission cable that
10 would go into the project.

11 MR. KENNEY: To bid for it or to make it?

12 MR. DALRYMPLE: To make.

13 MR. KENNEY: So you've been -- you have a
14 contract?

15 MR. DALRYMPLE: We have, I believe -- I
16 can defer to my partners who are doing Clean Line,
17 because I am not on the corporate section, but I
18 believe that's correct.

19 MR. KENNEY: Okay. Next question, you
20 mentioned Noranda?

21 MR. DALRYMPLE: Yes.

22 MR. KENNEY: Can you repeat that? You
23 said that Noranda would help with their expansion?

24 MR. DALRYMPLE: They have plans, I believe
25 to expand their smelter in New Madrid, and this,

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1 obviously, would support that expansion. There
2 would be approximately 51 million kinds of --

3 MR. KENNEY: Has your company had
4 discussions with Noranda?

5 MR. DALRYMPLE: Our company, I'm -- I have
6 been informed has a contract with Noranda.

7 MR. KENNEY: There is an contract now for
8 the expansion?

9 MR. DALRYMPLE: There's a contract for the
10 supply of the aluminum.

11 MR. KENNEY: Okay. To supply the Grain
12 Belt Clean Line?

13 MR. DALRYMPLE: That is my understanding
14 sir, yes.

15 MR. KENNEY: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. STOLL: Thank you for your testimony
17 today.

18 MR. WILLIAMS: Is there a company of
19 preferred providers for any other Clean
20 Line projects or just the Grain Belt Express?

21 MR. DALRYMPLE: I am not able to answer
22 that answer that question, sir, I'm sorry. I don't
23 know the answer to it.

24 MR. BUSHMAN: Any other questions?

25 Thank you, sir.

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1 MR. BUSHMAN: Sharon Metz.

2 SHARON METZ,
3 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
4 follows:

5 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
6 spell your last name.

7 MS. METZ: Sharon Metz, M-e-t-z.

8 MR. BUSHMAN: Where do you live?

9 MS. METZ: I live the 301 West 10th Street
10 in Carrollton, Missouri 64633.

11 MR. BUSHMAN: Please go ahead.

12 MS. METZ: I want to thank the Commission
13 for being here today and allowing myself and
14 everyone a chance to have an opportunity about this
15 project going on in the state of Missouri.

16 As a former mayor of Carrollton, Missouri,
17 and now serving as executive director for the
18 Carrollton Area Economic Alliance, I am all too
19 familiar with the struggles that small rural towns
20 face with dwindling populations and smaller tax
21 revenues. Projects like the Clean Line Energy
22 proposal would bring welcome infusions of jobs for
23 short-term, and increase tax revenues for the
24 long-term, astringing our ability to provide
25 community services and aiding our schools and our

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1 children. The proposal would take low cost energy
2 produced in western Kansas and bring it to Missouri
3 and other states that have a demand for it. Utility
4 companies in Missouri would be able to purchase the
5 clean line energy for customers throughout the
6 state, including residents in businesses that need
7 low-cost electricity. Along the way, the
8 transmission line will benefit the economy of not
9 only Carroll County, but several other reserve
10 counties through jobs and increased tax revenue.
11 Additionally, Clean Line is seeking partnership with
12 Missouri manufacturing companies to build parts for
13 the transmission line and other businesses to
14 provide services during and after the construction
15 of this line.

16 As a community leader, as well as a
17 grandmother, I want the children of Carroll County
18 to have the same advantage of children all over the
19 state and this country. The revenues from this
20 project alone will increase the tax revenues in our
21 county substantially, enhancing our school districts
22 to provide the best education for our own children.
23 It will also help fund local services, enable our
24 fire departments, ambulances services, and other
25 community services to add the latest in new

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1 technology that is vital to the health and the well
2 being of the people. Our people deserve the best
3 that we can provide for them, so I thank you for the
4 opportunity to share that today.

5 MR. BUSHMAN: Any questions?

6 MR. KENNEY: Thank you, ma'am.

7 MR. STOLL: Thank your for testimony.

8 MR. BUSHMAN: Thank you.

9 Nelson Heil.

10 NELSON HEIL,

11 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
12 follows:

13 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
14 spell your last name.

15 MR. HEIL: Nelson Heil. That's spelled
16 H-e-i-l. I'm the presiding commissioner of Carol
17 County.

18 MR. BUSHMAN: Please go ahead, sir.

19 MR. HEIL: Okay. First, I want to thank
20 you for allowing me to speak here today. The
21 statement I'm going to read is -- basically, is
22 factual, and it is the county's stance.

23 The entire United States economy is based
24 upon energy. At present, more than 80 percent of
25 our energy -- electric energy is produced from

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1 fossil fuels. We have the technology and the
2 opportunity to harness wind power to generate at
3 least a portion of our electric energy needs for
4 home, agricultural, and industrial customers. This
5 energy produced by wind is both clean and
6 affordable, and can only be produced in areas where
7 wind is both steady and sufficient. The proposed
8 Grain Belt Clean Energy Line is needed to transport
9 newly generated clean energy, electric energy, from
10 the area in southwest Kansas to areas including
11 Missouri in which it is to be used. This
12 transmission line will generate numerous jobs while
13 under construction, as well as maintenance jobs
14 after it becomes operational. According to Missouri
15 State Tax Commission estimates, based on expected
16 cost, and using present tax rates, approximately
17 \$800,000 annually will be added to Carroll County
18 taxings additives. About 70 percent will be
19 distributed to school districts within Carroll
20 County, with the remaining 30 percent to be divided
21 among fire districts, townships, ambulance district,
22 health department, et cetera, as well as the county
23 and state portions. We believe construction of this
24 proposed transmission line is a positive first step
25 to provide clean energy to areas including Missouri

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1 where it is needed for both present and future
2 energy needs.

3 And I'd like to put this in the record.

4 MR. BUSHMAN: If you want to bring that
5 forward, sir.

6 MR. HEIL: Sure.

7 MR. BUSHMAN: Thank you. That'll be
8 received into the record subject to attorney's right
9 to object it within five business days after it is
10 posted into the electronically filing system.

11 Any questions?

12 MR. AGATHEN: I have a question, Judge.

13 Just for clarification, what was the
14 source of that \$800,000 figure?

15 MR. HEIL: These were -- this is from the
16 Missouri Tax Commission.

17 MR. BUSHMAN: Could you identify yourself
18 for the record, Mr. Agathen.

19 MR. AGATHEN: I'm sorry. Paul Agathen for
20 the Missouri Landowners Alliance.

21 MR. BUSHMAN: Thank you, sir.

22 The next witness is David Martin.

23 David Martin?

24 Chris Miller.

25 CHRIS MILLER,

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1 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
2 follows:

3 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
4 spell your last name.

5 MR. MILLER: Chris D. Miller, M-i-l-l-e-r.

6 MR. BUSHMAN: Where do you live?

7 MR. MILLER: Carrollton, Missouri.

8 MR. BUSHMAN: Please go ahead.

9 MR. MILLER: Most of the people here today
10 are against a high voltage power line being built
11 across our state. They say it will lower land
12 values and also cause other numerous problems. In
13 the early 50s, we had high voltage power lines
14 installed across the state. Almost every county in
15 the state had these live wires. They actually
16 crossed our farm where I grew up. We farmed around
17 the poles, under the wires with no problems. We had
18 cows that grazed under the wires with no problems.
19 If a cow got struck by lightening, it was under a
20 tree, a long distance from the power lines, or high
21 lines as we called them. When we sold the farm, the
22 power lines had no effect on the price paid for the
23 land. No one, as far as I know, were opposed to
24 these high lines. Was it because we were getting
25 the power from them? Over the years, we have seen

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1 as a nation an increase in electricity usage. We
2 haven't built any new coal or nuclear power plants
3 for 40 years. Where will this extra energy come
4 from? It makes sense to me to use wind energy,
5 which is clean, to power our homes, cities, and
6 farms. Everywhere I look, more grain bins are being
7 built, that requires more electricity. We need more
8 electricity. Anyone who gets power from KCP&L just
9 had their rates go up. Wouldn't you like to pay
10 less for power? Those people in Illinois would like
11 to pay less. Their rates -- pay a cheaper rate too.
12 A lot of people here would like to pay -- would like
13 to see the people in Illinois pay a higher rate like
14 we do. In the future, we can get power from these
15 wires too and pay less per kilowatt. Our property
16 taxes in Carroll County just recently, due to
17 pipeline that just recently, due to a pipeline that
18 recently got put in -- I'll have to go back -- okay.

19 Our property taxes in Carroll County just
20 recently went down due to a pipeline that recently
21 got put in. The more utilities paid, the less we
22 pay. Wind energy is a free gift from the good Lord.
23 Why not use it to make electric power? We have been
24 using it for centuries to power ships across the
25 great oceans. The Dutch would be in water up to

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1 their necks if it wasn't for wind power.

2 MR. BUSHMAN: Any questions?

3 MR. KENNEY: Thanks, Mr. Miller for being
4 here.

5 MR. MILLER: Thanks for letting me speak.

6 MR. KENNEY: I have a question for you.
7 The lines that you were describing that were on the
8 property that you sold --

9 MR. MILLER: Yes.

10 MR. KENNEY: Could you tell me a little
11 bit more about them? Do you know how many volts
12 they were and how tall the towers were?

13 MR. MILLER: Oh, they're -- the wires were
14 at least 40 feet off the ground and the volt
15 themselves were up to 8 feet in places.

16 MR. KENNEY: And the voltage level of the
17 wire?

18 MR. MILLER: And the voltage level is
19 around 27,000 volts, I believe. I'm not really
20 sure.

21 MR. KENNEY: Okay. Well, I appreciate --

22 MR. MILLER: They've been there since the
23 early 50s. And another thing I might add, that two
24 years ago, they did some repair on those wires and
25 on the poles and structures, and they put in

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1 crossarms -- they took off the wood crossarms and
2 put on metal crossarms, and they did it all from a
3 helicopter.

4 MR. KENNEY: Ah. Well, thank you again.

5 MR. STOLL: Thank you for your testimony.

6 MR. BUSHMAN: Brian Johanning.

7 BRIAN JOHANNING,
8 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
9 follows:

10 MR. BUSHMAN: Would you please state your
11 name and spell your last name.

12 MR. JOHANNING: Brian Johanning,
13 J-o-h-a-n-n-i-n-g.

14 MR. BUSHMAN: And where do you live?

15 MR. JOHANNING: Lee's Summit, Missouri.

16 MR. BUSHMAN: Go ahead.

17 MR. JOHANNING: So I just wanted to start
18 off -- I don't have any prepared remarks, so I'm
19 kind of a little bit nervous here after the previous
20 four or five people have spoke, but thank you guys
21 for your service as commissioners to our state.
22 Thank you, Judge, for your service to the state as
23 well.

24 My name is Brian Johanning. I live in
25 Lee's Summit, Missouri. I would for Emery Sapp &

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1 Sons Construction Company. We're a heavy highway
2 road building company based out of Columbia,
3 Missouri. I went to the University of Missouri,
4 went to Rockhurst University for graduate school,
5 and I'm here today to speak on behalf of the Grain
6 Belt Express Line project that's -- that we're
7 talking about tonight.

8 I want to further qualify, I suppose, my
9 comments by saying that my great uncle has this
10 power line proposed potentially crossing his
11 property on our family farm that's been in the
12 family for about 50 years just east of Bosworth, not
13 very far from here. One of the fence rows that
14 potentially is question as part of this
15 construction, I've flushed well out of my entire
16 life, and, you know, it'll be sad to see it go, if
17 that day comes.

18 I kind of wanted to speak just very
19 briefly, because, obviously, it's somewhat of a
20 sensitive subject within our family, but -- about --
21 I guess more of a macro level. I heard a professor
22 from the McCombs School of Business last week down
23 at the Springfield Economic Development Counsel talk
24 a little bit about, you know, the United States and
25 where we fit in the world, in terms of this race for

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1 energy independence, and most specifically against
2 our competitors in China, India, and to a lesser
3 extent, Russia, and it was just really interesting
4 to hear him talk about, you know, smog in China and
5 how folks are really starting to come around and how
6 that communist government is really starting to try
7 to create cleaner forms of energy because people
8 can't breathe there, and so whenever I hear about a
9 project like wind energy crossing our family farm of
10 50 years, it definitely brings, you know, some
11 sensitivity, but, also, you know, clean forms of
12 energy is what we're all hoping for in the future.
13 The United States is definitely becoming an energy
14 colossus, and we don't want to let up on the brake
15 now -- or on the gas pedal now. Part of his talk
16 was on the deficits that our country continues to
17 face as we move forward, and if we have to, you
18 know, continue to -- or lose -- potentially lose the
19 race to energy independence, that leaves the
20 potential out there for to us have to purchase
21 energy from other locations, whether it's oil, gas,
22 or electricity, and that would only increase our,
23 you know, nation's debt as we move forward.

24 So I just want to touch on a couple very
25 macro issues. You guys have probably heard a lot of

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1 the more local issues over the course of the last
2 couple weeks, and so I appreciate your service, and
3 thanks for the time.

4 MR. BUSHMAN: Any questions?

5 MR. STOLL: Thank you for your testimony.

6 MR. KENNEY: Thank you.

7 MR. BUSHMAN: Thank you.

8 David Swearingin?

9 DAVID SWEARINGIN,

10 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
11 follows:

12 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
13 spell your last name.

14 MR. SWEARINGIN: My name is John David
15 Swearingin, S-w-e-a-r-i-n-g-i-n.

16 MR. BUSHMAN: Where do you reside?

17 MR. SWEARINGIN: I live at 29654 County
18 Road 191, Carrollton, Missouri.

19 MR. BUSHMAN: Okay. Please proceed.

20 MR. SWEARINGIN: Thank you for letting me
21 appear tonight, and thank you for being here and
22 hearing our testimony.

23 I am a farmer, a landowner, and a
24 supporter of renewable fuels and renewable energy.
25 I serve as president of the American Energy

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1 Producers, which is a project designed to build a
2 biodiesel plant north of Carrollton, and this
3 proposed line passes through our property. Our
4 board of directors is unanimously in favor of this
5 project, and asked me to speak in support of it.

6 I'm not quite old enough to know when we
7 didn't have electricity on our farm, but I'm old
8 enough to know what it meant to my parents and my
9 family and my brothers and sisters when electricity
10 finally came to our farm, and we were so pleased to
11 get it as a family and for our farming operation.
12 We didn't care how the electric line was ran, and
13 they would run from farm to farm, not along property
14 lines, but just right across the center of the
15 field, if necessary, the shortest distance possible,
16 and we didn't ask for any payment for easement,
17 because we were so pleased to have electricity
18 ourself, and we wanted to let our neighbors to have
19 electricity also.

20 I'm reminded of a quote that -- I often
21 here it said, you know, that the needs of the many
22 outweigh the needs of the few. I am a property
23 owner and a farmer, and I like my private property
24 rights. I don't want land to be taken away, but at
25 the same time, I know for the benefit of the

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1 majority, sometimes it's necessary for public
2 utilities to be utilized by everyone to allow those
3 lines like the Grain Belt Express to go through. We
4 are only talking about an easement, we're not
5 talking about the loss of the land. And, again, I
6 support the project, and I'm appreciative of the
7 fact that the people before me allowed easements to
8 go through so that I can -- when I flip a switch, I
9 can have electricity, so thank you very much, and I
10 appreciate your time.

11 MR. BUSHMAN: Questions?

12 MR. STOLL: Thank for your testimony.

13 MR. BUSHMAN: Thank you, sir.

14 James Smith.

15 JAMES SMITH,
16 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
17 follows:

18 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
19 spell your last name.

20 MR. SMITH: James Smith, S-m-i-t-h.

21 MR. BUSHMAN: Where do you reside?

22 MR. SMITH: Columbia, Missouri.

23 MR. BUSHMAN: Okay. If you could point
24 that mic up to you a little bit so the folks in back
25 will here you.

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1 Please go ahead.

2 MR. SMITH: I would like to thank the
3 Missouri Public Service Commission for the
4 opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Jim Smith
5 or James Smith. I'm employed by Whole Power Systems
6 as a product manager in Centralia, Missouri.

7 I'm here to speak in support of the Grain
8 Belt Transmission project for economic reasons and
9 for the creation of jobs. For more than a century
10 Hubbell Power Systems plant in Centralia, Missouri
11 has been known for designing, manufacturing all
12 types of transmission distribution, substation, and
13 telecommunication products used by the electric
14 utilities all over the world. We were thrilled to
15 have been selected by -- to help Green Line Energy
16 Partners build the Grain Belt Express Transmission
17 project.

18 For this project, we would supply tower
19 pack kits. This is a package of kitted hardware and
20 polymer insulators for the transmission assemblies.
21 The work would create 65 jobs over the life of the
22 agreement. It would also have a positive impact on
23 our suppliers in Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana.
24 Nearly 80 percent or 50 of these newly created jobs
25 will be located in Centralia, Missouri. These will

1 be good paying jobs with benefits. Living wage
2 jobs. They will not be minimum wage jobs.

3 During the last round of hearings, it was
4 noted that comments from property owners were made
5 in reference to the amount of heavy equipment that
6 is going to be on the land, such as concrete trucks
7 and so forth. This is one area that Hubbell Power
8 Systems can help in with our foundation systems.
9 Since the last round of hearings, Hubbell has met
10 with Clean Line to propose the use of helical pier
11 foundation systems made by Hubbell Power Systems in
12 Centralia, Missouri. The helical pier would reduce
13 the need for the concrete trucks and all the vast
14 amount of soils that would to be remove for the
15 foundations. The equipment for that foundation
16 would be reduced to backhoes and skid loaders-type
17 equipment -- sized equipment. The helical piers are
18 also green. At some point down the road -- way down
19 the road, you would expect that this line would
20 become obsolete, they would have to remove it. With
21 the helical piers, think of it as a screw. You
22 screw it in, you screw it out. So these helical
23 piers can be removed with minimal disturbance to the
24 surroundings, and being made out of steel, they
25 would be completely recyclable.

1 With these type of foundations, if Hubbell
2 were to supply these type of foundations, it could
3 add an additional ten to 15 full-time positions
4 located in Centralia, Missouri, prior to the numbers
5 that I stated before. The total number of jobs in
6 Centralia, Missouri could go to 70 -- to 60 to 70
7 rage. This could be 60 to 65 of those located right
8 in Missouri -- I'm sorry, I think I stated earlier
9 70 would be total Hubbell, approximately; 60 to 65
10 would be in Centralia, Missouri, and that would be
11 the total number if we were able to utilize those
12 helical pier foundations.

13 We at Hubbell Power Systems find it very
14 rewarding to be a part of the Grain Belt Express
15 project. It's a positive change for us in the
16 state. We look forward to playing a role in
17 delivering 3,500 megawatts of clean energy to
18 1.4 million homes and countless businesses, and,
19 thus, bring jobs and economic growth to Missouri.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. BUSHMAN: Questions?

22 Thank you.

23 Carol Munson-Ross.

24 CAROL MUNSON-ROSS,

25 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as

1 follows:

2 MR. BUSHMAN: Will you please state your
3 name and spell your last name.

4 MS. MUNSON-ROSS: My name is Carol
5 Munson-Ross. The last name is spelled M-u-n-s-o-n,
6 dash, R-o-s-s. I live in Brunswick, Missouri.

7 MR. BUSHMAN: Please go ahead.

8 MS. MUNSON-ROSS: I to state on the outset
9 that I'm opposed to Green Line for several reasons.
10 I feel like they have chosen the name of Clean
11 Line to tap on the public's -- well -- or on the
12 public knowledge of, We want to be green. That's
13 great. Unfortunately, I don't think the average
14 person looks at the rest of the story. If they want
15 to generate 3,500 megawatts of electricity out in
16 southwest Kansas, that's great. It saves that much
17 energy from the coal. What most people don't
18 understand is that amount of energy can be used much
19 more locally without going across several states. I
20 see that they want to drop 500 megawatts in eastern
21 Missouri. An understanding of the power grid, this
22 isn't going to help very much of Missouri. I see no
23 facts on how long that 500 megawatts is. One hour?
24 Two hours? Anybody that pays their light bill,
25 energy is measured in per hour rate. If they drop

1 500 megawatts for their 200,000 homes for one hour,
2 they have, to the letter of their statement, been
3 true. One thing else I don't see that people who
4 want to look at the green aspect of it, and that's
5 not wrong, but are they truly seeing the whole
6 picture? That being the fact that there is going to
7 be a large footprint of this transmission line, it's
8 going to reduce the amount of timber, the clear cut,
9 it reduces the amount of acreage that our farmers
10 can use to supply food for this country. This power
11 can be used much closer than going across three
12 states. The only reason that can I see that Clean
13 Line would like to propose it project is for sheer
14 unmitigated greed. Power sells for a higher price
15 where they want to go with it than it does where
16 they want to generate it. And, again, where it's
17 being generated is a good thing. It's not bad to
18 generate and use a resource of wind, but the power
19 can be used much closer without having to run over
20 three states.

21 And thank you, gentleman, for allowing me
22 to be here.

23 MR. BUSHMAN: Questions?

24 Thank you.

25 The next name on the list is Lori Smith.

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1 Ms. Smith, I think you testified in Moberly, so I'm
2 going to move you to the end of the list so other
3 folks will have a chance first.

4 The next name is John Bourne.

5 JOHN BOURNE,
6 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
7 follows:

8 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
9 spell your last name.

10 MR. BOURNE: John Bourne, B-o-u-r-n-e.

11 MR. BUSHMAN: And where do you live?

12 MR. BOURNE: 12720 Omaha, Nebraska.

13 MR. BUSHMAN: Go ahead.

14 MR. BOURNE: Thank you very much,
15 Commission, I appreciate the time to come and talk
16 to you.

17 I'm an international representative for
18 the International Brotherhood of Electrical workers.
19 I'm based out of Omaha, but I work out of the
20 construction department in Washington, DC.

21 The IBEW is a 750,000 person organization
22 in the United States and Canada. This includes more
23 than 19,000 members in Missouri. In fact, as a side
24 note, this month, we celebrate our 123rd year --
25 123rd birthday. We were formed right here in

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1 Missouri, so we've been in Missouri an awful long
2 time.

3 Our members -- the industry our members
4 working daily cover all aspects of the electrical
5 field, from manufacturing every part of the
6 electrical infrastructure, transmission towers, all
7 the rest, and every type of parts used in the
8 project such as the one we're discussing tonight.
9 We cover a lot of utilities and the construction of
10 all types. We, of course, cover the
11 line construction people, as well as the
12 construction of the DC and AC converter stations
13 like the one proposed in Ralls County, Missouri.
14 Our crews have the experience in building DC
15 projects and have done so in the states of
16 Washington, Oregon, California, Minnesota, and the
17 Dakotas. The energy world is changing and changing
18 fast. New technology is coming at our people and
19 the general population faster than ever. Our
20 utilities are scrambling with trying to figure out
21 how to handle the need for green energy and trying
22 to get away from coal, and, of course, this is why
23 we're all here tonight. Not only do we understand
24 that the energy business is changing, and I think
25 it's fair to say that we have not kept up with it.

1 We're running a 1950 -- year 1950 grid system for a
2 2014 America, or should I say, we're trying to do
3 it. We also see projects such as this not only
4 updating the grid projects, but as an economic
5 development project. This is for or 19,000 members
6 across, as well as the rest of the state in
7 Missouri. The number of workers on a job like this
8 is really hard to determine, until the final
9 drawings are written and decided and a contractor
10 has bid this job, but I guarantee you the numbers
11 are a lot -- will be very, very significant. We
12 will have numerous Missouri workers that would enjoy
13 working on a project like this.

14 Mr. Chairman, thank you for your time to
15 speak with you tonight. All of you have a hard job
16 to do as you ponder all of the facts that you've
17 been heard, and there's been a lot of valid points
18 from a lot of people over the last eight meetings,
19 and I thank you for letting me testify.

20 MR. BUSHMAN: Any questions?

21 Thank you.

22 Donald Davis.

23 MR. DAVIS: I spoke at another meeting, so
24 put me at the end of the meeting.

25 MR. BUSHMAN: Carolyn Maberry.

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1 CAROLYNN MABERRY,
2 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
3 follows:

4 MR. BUSHMAN: Could you please state your
5 name and spell your last time.

6 MS. MABERRY: Carolyn Maberry,
7 M-a-b-e-r-r-y.

8 MR. BUSHMAN: Where do you live, ma'am?

9 MS. MABERRY: Dawn, Missouri. Carroll
10 County, however.

11 MR. BUSHMAN: Go ahead.

12 MS. MABERRY: Well, I was -- and this is
13 the first one I've been to. It seems to me like a
14 lot of the speakers in favor of it are looking at it
15 as a financial gain. The jobs that they can get and
16 the money that they can make, but I'm concerned
17 about the health. Can everybody hear me okay?
18 Okay.

19 Have you ever watched one struggle with
20 cancer? Our son, who was 36, had a brain tumor, and
21 we watched him for seven years. It started with the
22 first seizure, and then it got worse. He had
23 surgeries with high hopes that we could get well.
24 He was a government employee, he was -- he never
25 drank, he never smoked, he hadn't done anything --

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1 nobody deserves a brain tumor, but he struggled with
2 X-rays, chemo, experimental medicines, and after a
3 struggling, struggling, struggling, and many
4 disappointments, he lost his life, God took him
5 home. So I'm concerned with the health risk.
6 There's one of these lines that go across one of my
7 farms. It -- I can't even tell you the company
8 because my grandma signed for, but my brother says
9 when he would go underneath that power line, the
10 hairs on his arms would stand up. That cannot be
11 healthy. Think of your pacemakers, your brain
12 waves, your TVs -- which is not important, our
13 health, but if we can do one thing to help our
14 future generation have a healthier environment, I
15 feel we should not go for this project. There's
16 surely some other way we can produce it without
17 endangering our health and having to struggle with
18 the cancer or other illnesses, and I do want to
19 thank you for letting me speak. I know I'm not a
20 speaker, but I spoke from the heart. Thank you.

21 MR. BUSHMAN: Any questions?

22 MR. STOLL: Thank you, ma'am.

23 MR. BUSHMAN: Thank you.

24 Darren Farmer.

25 DARREN FARMER,

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1 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
2 follows:

3 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
4 are spell your last name.

5 MR. FARMER: Darren Farmer, F-a-r-m-e-r.

6 MR. BUSHMAN: Where do you reside?

7 MR. FARMER: 5644 Southeast Wildlife Road,
8 Cowgill, Missouri.

9 MR. BUSHMAN: Go ahead.

10 MR. FARMER: I am here on behalf of my
11 father, myself, my family, and my grandpa. He's 92
12 years old. Clean Line Energy decided to have their
13 hearings about a year and a half ago. We went and
14 we made our comments on where the line was going to
15 go, and then -- I think it was in the winter or the
16 fall, they came through, and it was put online that
17 the property -- the line was going to be on my
18 grandfather's property. It was going to effect 120
19 acres. It is going to be near a barn that we
20 usually use for livestock. It's going to be right
21 outside of the back door of my 92-year-old
22 grandfather's house, who fought if World War II, and
23 he says, Why are we taking my land? I've done
24 everything that I can to help, but, yet, why do I
25 need to give this us to help other people when it is

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1 not going to help us here in Missouri, as far as his
2 opinion. My wife and three kids, bought a farm that
3 is in the Century Farm. It's going to be within a
4 half a mile of the line, and every time that we
5 leave our house, we will have to drive under the
6 line to get to town. The line will affect our
7 ability to farm. Right now, whenever we use our GPS
8 to drive under lines, it does affect it. Not every
9 day, but most days it will affect the guidance, as
10 far as where you're driving in your field, and this
11 line will also affect the 120 acres we will not be
12 able to aerial apply fungicide on corn or wheat. We
13 already put those types of crops out, and we have
14 aeriually applied those fungicides.

15 Now, with that, this is also going to
16 reduce the local economy for the aerial applicators.
17 We talk about all the benefits, but for the long
18 term, ag is the No. 1 economy in Missouri. Let's
19 make no bones about it. I went to college to be an
20 ag teacher. I teach FFA to students, and I teach
21 them agricultural and how we can be better
22 consumers. This line does not feel like it's going
23 to help us as consumers. There are other methods,
24 as we've heard other people talk about. We do not
25 need to transport energy from one part of the nation

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1 to another. If I understand it right, we already
2 have a national grid that electricity can be sold to
3 other parts of the nation. It is really
4 disheartening that Grain Belt never did express
5 whenever they're going to put a line on the
6 property. It really concerns me that they're not
7 neighborly enough to notify us. Yes, they sent a
8 letter, but I do have a point with that. They
9 mailed the address to the wrong town for my grandpa.
10 They mailed it to Cowgill, Missouri, and his address
11 is Polo. The only reason we got the letter is
12 because our postal carrier is our cousin. So to me,
13 if they can't do their research, how are they going
14 to be able to maintain a line that goes across
15 several states, if they can't even find an address
16 of a property owner?

17 Now, yes, I speak with a lot of passion.
18 I tell my students, We have passion for things that
19 we believe in. This is not good. My father would
20 be here, but he is hauling grain. He is stuck in
21 line, or he would be here. My 92-year-old grandpa
22 would be here, but he can't get here, so I am here
23 speaking for them. So for the landowners' sake,
24 please do not allow them utility status when they
25 are a public -- or a private entity and not public.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. BUSHMAN: Thank you.

3 Steven Kreyling.

4 STEVEN KREYLING,
5 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
6 follows:

7 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
8 spell your last name.

9 MR. KREYLING: Steven Kreyling. Steven
10 with a V, last name, K-r-e-y-l-i-n-g. I live in
11 rural Audrain County, Mexico address.

12 MR. BUSHMAN: Please go ahead.

13 MR. KREYLING: Judge Bushman and members
14 of the PSE Commission and the staff, thank you for
15 the opportunity to speak here.

16 I want to start out by saying that I hope
17 that I am able to bring a little different
18 perspective. I know you've had a lot of these
19 meetings, and I appreciate your time, but I also
20 have to state unequivocally there have been lots of
21 comments about financial aspects. I am a CPA. I
22 have worked 15 years as a finance director for the
23 Mexico Public Schools. There's been a lot of
24 comments about jobs. That's all about money. A lot
25 of comments about compensation. That's money. I

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1 assure you that this project is entirely about
2 property rights and private individuals using,
3 inappropriately, the right to imminent domain. I am
4 hear to represent myself, my wife Debra, who is in
5 the back row; Matthew Kreyling, age 30; Ashley
6 Kreyling, age 29; Peter Kreyling, age 28; Kelsey
7 Kreyling, age 27; Jane Kreyling, age 3; Margaret
8 Kreyling, age 1; Raphael Kreyling, born in February,
9 just over six months old; and Alice Kreyling, who
10 I'm very proud to say was born two and a half weeks
11 ago. I feel like I need to represent those
12 individuals who cannot be here tonight, but because
13 they will inherit the 79 acres. We have a small
14 farm. We struggle to make things work on a small
15 scale. We are not under the final proposed line,
16 but I want to share where my family has been. We
17 have lived in Springfield, Rolla, St. Louis, Mexico,
18 and Kirksville. Members of the my family have
19 attended Truman State University, Missouri
20 University of Science and Technology, The University
21 of Missouri, St. Louis, East Central Missouri
22 College, Moberly Community College, Drury
23 University, Fontbonne University, and Midwestern
24 Theological Seminary Kansas City. I share that
25 because while I appreciate that there are meetings

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1 held in eight counties, this project sets an
2 unacceptable precedence of giving imminent domain to
3 private individuals. I feel like we represent that
4 because we're not a county that's being affected,
5 and I do appreciate the opportunity to be here and
6 the time that you gentleman and all of your staff
7 have spent listening to our comments. I feel like I
8 represent the other 108 -- excuse me, 106 counties
9 of the state of Missouri who are not on the proposed
10 line, but are affected, don't have an opportunity to
11 come to meetings like this in their home community,
12 in their home county to stop the precedent that's
13 being set here.

14 I looked up "necessity" and "convenience,"
15 which is what they're asking for. They're not
16 asking to be a public utility. According to
17 dictionary.com, "necessity" is defined as something
18 indispensable. This project is not indispensable.
19 It adds cost to the supply. I don't believe there's
20 anyone here who will see their electric bill go down
21 as a result of this project in the state of
22 Missouri.

23 I looked up under dictionary.com the
24 definition of "convenience." There I found that
25 anything that adds to one's ease or comfort.

1 There's nothing adding ease or comfort with this
2 project.

3 As an accountant, I'm, of course, a
4 numbers person, and I've heard people testify that
5 this has minimal benefit or no benefit, and I don't
6 know that anyone has introduced a concept that I
7 believe that this is a deficit project. The cost,
8 the weight of the project, and the toll it takes on
9 Missourians is greater and exceeds the value of the
10 dollars that are being generated. It is a dangerous
11 precedent.

12 I am aware of a little bit of research
13 that I did with regard to medical studies that have
14 been done, and people have come and talked about how
15 many watts and how much voltage this is, and the
16 comment that is used commonly and that is promoted
17 by Clean Line says it's 3,500 megawatts. When you
18 put the zeros to it, it is 3.5 billion watts of
19 energy. I found no studies that are conclusive and
20 consistent that say this is safe. The reason I
21 mention this is because, as a society, we thought
22 that DDT was a good idea. DDT, we know now, is
23 extremely harmful. We thought asbestos was a good
24 idea. We now know, we want to avoid it. I do not
25 see that as mankind has the intelligence and the

1 knowledge to move forward with this, that we can
2 move forward with a project like this where we do
3 not know the actual effects, the long-term and
4 short-term effects.

5 I did a little bit of other research by
6 talking to people.

7 MR. BUSHMAN: Five minutes.

8 MR. KREYLING: Thank you. I'll conclude
9 here.

10 There is a pretty good sized power
11 line that goes by U4, it's on Highway 19. I know
12 that when I go underneath it, I say, I'm so glad I
13 don't live there. People that I have talked to, I
14 have ask them, Do you really want to live there? No
15 one has said they desire to live under that power
16 line.

17 So with all due respect, Judge Bushman and
18 representatives of other commissioners, I would ask
19 you to please deny this project. Deny it under any
20 circumstances not contingent upon some things
21 meaning, but deny it because it is bad precedence
22 for the state of Missouri.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. BUSHMAN: Thank you.

25 The next two names is Marilyn O'Bannon and

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1 Ron Stacks. They have testified at previous
2 hearings, so I'll move them to the end of the list.

3 The next is Peggy McGaugh.

4 PEGGY MCGAUGH,
5 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
6 follows:

7 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
8 are spell your last name.

9 MS. MCGAUGH: Peggy M-c-G-a-u-g-h.

10 MR. BUSHMAN: And where do you reside?

11 MS. MCGAUGH: 21173 County Road 274,
12 Carrollton, Missouri.

13 MR. BUSHMAN: Please go ahead.

14 MS. MCGAUGH: First of all, thank you,
15 members of the commission, for allowing this
16 testimony. I stand before you today as the
17 Carroll County clerk. I bring with me numbers.
18 That's what I do at the courthouse, that's what I'm
19 charged to do for these constituents behind me. The
20 many jobs that I have include being the CFO and the
21 budget officer. So with that, I have access to the
22 valuations. When the resigning commissioner, Nelson
23 Heil spoke earlier, he assigned a dollar to the
24 benefit that we had, based on assumptions of what
25 the tax levies would be, and what I will say is that

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1 I have assessed values, which is what we work with
2 the entities to set their levies, to bill the
3 customers. I've been in the office now 30 years.
4 I've seen the valuations stay stagnant until most
5 recently, when we were fortunate enough to get not
6 one, not two, but three pipelines to come through
7 near the same area where this Clean Line energy
8 line is proposed. In 2011, we gained \$35 million in
9 assessed value. In 2014, we have added another
10 20 million. Now, what happens with that, as you
11 well know, and I hope the constituents know, is
12 when -- I call them the "out of towners" -- when the
13 railroad and utility companies pay their tax bill,
14 it makes the local people's taxes go down, because
15 the levies are set as all the total valuations
16 together. The state assessed real estate, also
17 known as miles of line or percentage in our county,
18 now surpasses the amount of real estate for our
19 entire county.

20 Now, let me repeat that. We have 697
21 square miles in Carroll County. We have some of the
22 richest fertile farm ground in the state, we boast
23 of our production, but we still, as of 2014, do not
24 have the assessed value that we have with the state
25 assessed railroad utility value. As of now, it has

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1 surpassed it. Now, what would we do without that,
2 had those railroads not come through here? Again,
3 these constituents, our constituents, me and them,
4 we would have higher taxes.

5 I do not have property that falls in this
6 line, and I have -- I see many friends and people
7 who work for me at the courthouse here -- and I do
8 really feel for them, I do, but I also, as the
9 business person that's helping keep taxes down and
10 helping the schools educate our children with the
11 best that they can they have, I would like to see
12 there be more valuation so that we can have more, or
13 maintain what we have. If we don't maintain what we
14 have, we're going to board up the businesses on the
15 square, the schools will have to close like Stet,
16 and some of the other small schools. If you ask
17 those superintendents now how the taxes have
18 shifted, they will tell you, We were able to lower
19 our rates because we are surviving on the railroad
20 and utility tax money. Those include, not just the
21 railroads, the electric lines, the pipeline, the
22 natural gas, the telecommunication, including
23 broadband. Yay! We got broadband in Carroll
24 County. We fought hard for that and the long
25 distance. Again, if it were not for these

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1 valuations, we would not be able to offer the
2 services that we do now, and the schools would not
3 be able to educate our children.

4 Again, every dollar amount that they pay,
5 we reduce. So if not the -- I guess this is
6 somewhat of a challenge. If not this project, what
7 are we going to do in small-town America? What are
8 we going to supplement our valuation with? It's
9 going to continue to go down, unless the state tax
10 commission comes in with the ag land increase. I
11 know they don't want that either. I don't want it.
12 No one wants that, but there's a way to supplement
13 our valuation by this type of project.

14 Thank you for this public hearing. It's
15 been an enlightening thing. This is the only one I
16 intend to go to, because I speak from my heart for
17 my county, and we want to see it very viable.

18 MR. KENNEY: Thank you, Mrs. McGaugh.
19 I have one question. What classification does a
20 pipeline or a transmission line fall under, as far
21 as your mill levy in agriculture's 4 percent
22 residential? Is that commercial?

23 MS. MCGAUGH: It's commercial.

24 MR. KENNEY: It falls under commercial?
25 Anything -- any easement -- cable, everything falls

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1 under commercial?

2 MS. MCGAUGH: Commercial.

3 MR. KENNEY: All right. Thank you.

4 MS. MCGAUGH: State assessed commercial at
5 the highest rate.

6 MR. BUSHMAN: Any other questions?

7 Thank you.

8 Bob Unternaehrer?

9 BOB UNTERNAEHRER,
10 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
11 follows:

12 MR. BUSHMAN: Could you please state your
13 name and spell your last name.

14 MR. UNTERNAEHRER: Bob Unternaehrer. It's
15 U-n-t-e-r-n-a-e-h-r-e-r.

16 MR. BUSHMAN: And where do you reside,
17 sir?

18 MR. UNTERNAEHRER: I farm north of
19 Brunswick, Missouri and reside north of Brunswick.

20 MR. BUSHMAN: Please go ahead.

21 MR. UNTERNAEHRER: I'm a 1964 graduate of
22 Missouri School of Minds, which somebody mentioned
23 that's now the University of Missouri Science and
24 Technology, with a degree in electrical engineering.
25 I worked in the power distribution system for about

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1 15 years, and I farmed in -- north of Brunswick for
2 36 years. I bet nobody else got that record. None
3 of that qualifies me to speak on the DC power
4 transmission systems, except, possibly, to be better
5 in reading and literature, and so that's kind of
6 where I'm going to speak from. I noticed people
7 speaking about a power line that they see across
8 their farm, and I see mistakes made for comparing
9 megawatts to kilovolts and that sort of thing, and
10 that's just layman's, but this thing is something
11 that we haven't really seen at 350-some kilovolts DC
12 power. The ones we're used to seeing is maybe 20 to
13 30 kilovolts of AC power, and there's a big
14 difference.

15 My concern -- and I ask that you consider,
16 is in the literature, I have never seen anything
17 that said wind energy could compete with anything
18 else, whether it be coal, clean coal, natural gas,
19 any form of generation without public subsidy. How
20 Clean Line is saying that, I would be glad see -- I
21 would like so see those figures. We just recently
22 tried to compete with scrap hay with -- to generate
23 electricity and have failed. It just doesn't work.
24 There's nothing cheaper than coal. There's nothing
25 more clean than natural gas, and cheaper, and so I

1 ask you as commissioners to consider that.

2 I live in Arizona in the wintertime, and
3 Arizona is a big, polluted state and it uses a lot
4 of power in the city of Phoenix and Tucson, and my
5 house out there, I recently spent some money, which
6 I thought was a good investment, to power it with
7 solar, and it does pay my bill all summer long when
8 I'm here, but what happened to me -- and I'd like
9 to -- in Arizona, I'd like for you commissioners not
10 to do here in Missouri. As soon as they give
11 approval to the solar collector and I paid the bill
12 for it at a rate of eight and a half cents per
13 kilowatt hour generated that the power company would
14 pay me, the power company came to the power
15 commission out there and said, That's too much, we
16 want two and a half cents a kilowatt hour, and
17 that's what happened. You know somebody needs to
18 hold these utility companies. It just blew my
19 7 percent return on that solar collector down to
20 nothing.

21 The second question I want you to consider
22 is what's -- I've never read Clean Line -- that
23 representative that called on me -- able to tell me
24 what's going to happen to this if Clean Line energy
25 fails? Where is the backup? One of the persons

1 from -- whatever -- from the utility provider said
2 that you could screw these things out of the ground.
3 Who's going to pay for that in a defunct company?
4 Is there bonding in place that will cover the
5 amount? I know it's going to cost a lot more to
6 tear it down, no matter what the construction
7 capabilities you got, from my construction
8 experience, than it is to build it. The
9 materials -- that steel foundation might be
10 recyclable, but it's at a very low rate.

11 The second thing that has been talked
12 about a little bit here is static discharge. I know
13 there's a big difference in DC static discharge and
14 AC. I tend to agree with the people that said --
15 where the Missouri -- I don't see the literature
16 saying that Missouri is going to benefit from this
17 district -- from the one station they're going to
18 put down. That's going to be a terribly expensive
19 station to have a SCR station to convert the power
20 back, and I just doubt that, but, again, I'm not
21 qualified. The thing that I have on my land, I've
22 been putting center pivot irrigation. I started
23 last year on my farms that will -- has a water
24 supply, and one of the farm it goes across has the
25 water supply to do that. And when you put a power

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1 line in the middle of it, one of these privets that
2 goes around and around, it don't work too good, and
3 if you put something in that would clear it, an
4 impartial system of some kind, I've never heard
5 Clean Line say what that might do when you sprinkle
6 water in the area of this 350 KB, I believe it is,
7 power line. I don't know whether that's been
8 considered or not. I hadn't heard until tonight the
9 problem with RTK or GPS guidance systems, but I do
10 know that interference is a big thing when you're
11 trying to hold a self-guided tractor to an inch or
12 two, and it ain't going to work under those lines, I
13 would bet, but, again, I'm not qualified under that.

14 The one thing that I am qualified to do
15 is, one time about 15 years ago, my daughter called
16 me up in Lee's Summit and says, We're ready to buy
17 our first house, Dad, would you come by and look at
18 it and give us a recommendation? I said, Sure. I
19 come up, and they took me out to the house. We were
20 sitting out in the cul-de-sac in front of it. She
21 says, What do you think? I said, Well, I don't
22 know, it's okay. They said, Let's go inside. I
23 said, I don't need to go inside. How come? I said,
24 there's about a 350 KB power line running in your
25 backyard right beside your house, and there's no

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1 easement to keep that power line away, and that's 35
2 KB, we're talking about -- AC -- we're talking about
3 350 kilovolt DC. I said, I don't want my grandkids
4 playing under that line, because we know that the
5 electric motor force that's generated off these AC
6 lines is dangerous. It's even dangerous to hold
7 your cell phone to your ear, we're thinking now, and
8 that don't generate nothing of what it does to your
9 brain. So, anyway, we didn't go in the house and
10 they didn't buy it.

11 MR. BUSHMAN: Five minutes.

12 Five minutes. Okay. I got to quit.

13 The other thing that's going to affect me
14 is aerial application. I hadn't thought of that
15 until somebody speaks -- that's all important. If
16 they think that you can't put on aerial fungicide
17 because of the power line sitting there, I don't
18 think there's any pilot out there -- and I'm a pilot
19 too -- that's going to fly under that 350 KB line,
20 and that's what they'd have to do to go on, and
21 they'd have to go around them power lines, and
22 they'd have to fly under them.

23 I'm not done, but I quit in respect to
24 your five minutes.

25 MR. BUSHMAN: Questions?

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1 MR. STOLL: Do you have any written notes
2 you wanted to submit?

3 MR. UNTERNAEHRER: Nope. I just speak an
4 extra -- I got notes, but they wouldn't be worth
5 much.

6 MR. STOLL: Thank you for your testimony.

7 MR. BUSHMAN: Thank you.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can I give him my five
9 minutes?

10 MR. BUSHMAN: If you'd like to.

11 Would you like to?

12 MR. UNTERNAEHRER: I'm basically done.

13 MR. BUSHMAN: Okay. Thank you.

14 MR. UNTERNAEHRER: One more quick thing.

15 I do oppose the private use of imminent domain. I
16 was involved in that in the pipeline, and that's a
17 bad thing. I stopped the pipeline because they
18 didn't want to take me to court for imminent domain.
19 If you just allow that to be automatically, it's not
20 going to be good.

21 MR. BUSHMAN: Kevin Smith.

22 KEVIN SMITH,

23 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
24 follows:

25 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and

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1 spell your last name.

2 MR. SMITH: Kevin Smith, S-m-i-t-h.

3 MR. BUSHMAN: And where do you live?

4 MR. SMITH: I live in southern Randolph
5 County near Clark, Missouri.

6 MR. BUSHMAN: Please go ahead.

7 MR. SMITH: I first heard about this
8 project in July of 2013. I was immediately
9 concerned, because during -- through one of my
10 farms, there are three pipelines currently now, and
11 it's pretty well known that once a corridor is
12 established, that there'll be more utilities coming,
13 and it's been rumored for a few years that there's
14 the fourth and the fifth pipeline coming, and, of
15 course, the same thing will happen with this power
16 line, so our family, including my mom and my wife
17 and my two children kind of feel we've done our
18 share, as far as doing our burden for society, and
19 so I begin to think of ways how other people could
20 share this, and one of the things that has been
21 brought up to me is that up to 200,000 homes would
22 be using this electricity, and it got me to thinking
23 that there's probably not 200,000 homes in rural
24 northern Missouri, so most of this electricity would
25 be going through our cities and our towns, and so I

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1 was looking at the different towns and cities on
2 this route, and we're looking at Carrollton and
3 maybe Salisbury and Moberly and Monroe City and
4 Hannibal, and I'm sure there's some west of here,
5 and I'm thinking, Man, our local commissioners are
6 telling us how great this is for our economic
7 development, they're telling us this is good for our
8 tax base, and I'm thinking, Let's put them next to
9 our schools and next to our fire departments and the
10 police departments and our airports and our
11 libraries and maybe our city parks, all of those can
12 use funds, and they would get the easement money and
13 they would get the tower rental for having the tower
14 there, and I know it won't cost any more in the city
15 because at two different times, talking to
16 representatives, I've been told that no matter what
17 my future plans are for my farm or what I think it's
18 valued or whether it's been in the family so long
19 and it's a home farm, that we're going to look at
20 soil types, we're going to treat everybody the same,
21 and if your farm is of a certain soil type, it's
22 going to be worth so much, and so we know what the
23 soil types are under these towns like Carrollton and
24 Moberly and so forth, so it wouldn't be any more.
25 We also know that there's not going to be any more

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1 towers, because you only put so many towers in a
2 mile or half mile, and, of course, sometimes you
3 hear it's three, sometimes it's five, sometimes it's
4 seven, you never quite get the same answer of how
5 many towers it'll be, but I'm also thinking, Well,
6 that's great, because a whole tower probably won't
7 fit on one person's lot, so maybe they only get a
8 fourth of a tower, where, on my farm, if it goes at
9 the right direction and stuff, I might get five or
10 seven towers, so that seems pretty fair. But then I
11 got to thinking, Well, you know, if it's in the
12 schoolyard, and a lot of these schools now have
13 preschool and K through 12, that's 14 years that our
14 youth are there, and it appears that there is some
15 unknown health risk. We don't know. May not be,
16 may be, and I'm thinking, you know, the community
17 and the society is going to say, you know, I don't
18 think I want it by the schools where our kids are
19 going be there every day, and here I'm sitting, a
20 second generation Randolph County farmer with a 12
21 year old and nine year old child still at home, and
22 I'm thinking, Well, maybe I don't want to live by
23 that. Does that mean I need to quit my farming to
24 have to go to another place and move my kids from
25 this future health thing? Do we want to risk two or

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1 three generations just trying to find out, you know,
2 if there's a health risk or not? So that's -- but
3 still that would help our fire departments. I was
4 on a rural fire department board for seven years,
5 and we're always looking for funds. And I'm
6 thinking, Well, the police and all of that, and then
7 I'm thinking, Oh, well there could be some
8 communications problems there, and I'm sure there
9 would be uprising in the community. You don't want
10 the ambulance not getting your call that you need
11 them or the fire department or the police or even
12 the airport, if they're trying to land a plane and
13 it interferes with that communication. And I'm
14 thinking, Well, yeah, on my farm, I use GPS all the
15 time. I've got my farm to grid sampled in two acre
16 squares, it tells -- from a satellite, it tells the
17 GPS unit how much to spread, where to spread. We'll
18 be in good stewards with our farm land. It's
19 telling how much to spray with our herbicides. Even
20 on my planters, I have -- I control the population
21 as we go throughout the fields so it plants
22 different populations. This all done by GPS.
23 That's not to mention on my farm plan that I use my
24 cell phone as my business office. That is my
25 business office. I'm not in some office somewhere,

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1 I'm out in the field, and when I ask, you know, What
2 does this do with out communications like this?
3 Well, it could interfere. We -- well, we really
4 don't know, but it might interfere and it could
5 interfere, so we don't know. But then I got to
6 thinking back to the town, our parks always need
7 money. You know, there's new ball fields, new
8 swimming pools, everything, but then I thought, You
9 know what, they're going to want to clear cut that
10 park, and if you live in town and you've got a
11 10-acre park and they clear cut a half of it or a
12 fourth of it, you're going to beginning to wonder,
13 Wow, I don't want to live like. And then I begin to
14 think of my own farm. I'm thinking, Well, my farm
15 is 96, 97 percent tillable, so there's very few
16 trees on there, but I do have a few cherished spots
17 that I do have trees, and I'm thinking, Man, if this
18 pipeline comes through and takes that haven away
19 from me, I'm thinking, Wow, what would that be like?
20 So at the end of the day, I kind of think,
21 Well, you know, there is some really good reasons
22 that these aren't going through downtown Moberly and
23 downtown Monroe City and through Carrollton, and I'm
24 thinking, You know what, these sound like the same
25 reasons that us people in the rural area are saying

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1 too. We don't want our third generation living next
2 to this. We don't want our farm clean cut. We
3 don't want our farming business sacrificed, and so
4 I'm thinking, you know, I'm feeling a little
5 discriminated here. If we're just being put upon
6 because we are a small minority, a small amount of
7 people, or is it really for the greater good? I
8 guess I'll leave it there.

9 MR. BUSHMAN: Any questions?

10 Thanking you for your testimony.

11 We've been going a little while, why don't
12 we take a short break? We'll return in about ten
13 minutes.

14 (A recess was taken.)

15 MR. BUSHMAN: The next name I have on the
16 list to testify is Jim Warner.

17 Mr. Warner, could you please come forward?

18 JIM WARNER,

19 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
20 follows:

21 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
22 spell your last name.

23 MR. WARNER: My name is Jim Warner,
24 W-a-r-n-e-r. I live in Tina, Missouri. It's north
25 of Carroll County.

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1 MR. BUSHMAN: Please go ahead.

2 MR. WARNER: What I hear tonight here --
3 there's a lot of people -- there's a lot of tax
4 benefits out. That's all well and good. There's a
5 revenue to be gained from this thing, but it's all
6 well and good except if you're at landowner that
7 this line crosses or if you're a person that lives
8 near this line. I've been welder foreman of
9 pipelines for 44 years. I was a welder foreman on
10 the flat and the keystone that went from Cushing,
11 Oklahoma into Texas. Also, up from west of
12 Salsburry -- or Marshall, Quincy, Illinois. 322
13 miles of pipe I've been involved with, which
14 involved a lot of right of ways. Pipelines will go
15 out there and they'll cut the right of ways, they'll
16 protect the soil. I don't ever see that with these
17 electric lines. It seems to me like -- we was
18 working near Palmar, and these electric company up
19 there, contractors, they come down through there,
20 nothing is topsoil, never saw no ditches or anything
21 protected regarding their concern, they just plowed
22 right through there, and they went from pole to
23 pole, so they are going to be going down the right
24 of ways tearing up this right of way. There's a
25 hell of a lot difference between that and the

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1 pipeline construction, the way they protect their
2 right of ways.

3 I want to speak on behalf of Ms. Maberry.
4 She has a lot to be learned from what her concerns
5 was. We have laid a lot of pipeline that have
6 crossed underneath electric companies, and every
7 time you hit one of these electric right of ways, if
8 you don't put a ground on that pipe, immediately
9 when it hits the ground, you cannot weld that pipe.
10 Electrolysis draw off that pipe so great, it will
11 magnetize the pipe, and it's just like taking --
12 years ago when you use rod. Well, you can take that
13 rod and stick it right into that and it would just
14 drill a hole, it wouldn't stick to it. That's the
15 magnetism coming off this electric draw, and that's
16 pipe laying on the ground underneath these right of
17 ways. Now, this mechanized pipeline building that
18 we have, same thing, you better ground every joint.
19 So this lady had a lot of good concerns about this.
20 Cause the hair to stand up on your arms, that's a
21 true fact. I hope a lot of people has a lot of
22 merit to it. I see there's a lot of merit should be
23 given to people under concern of destruction of the
24 property. I don't hear a bunch of that about what
25 they're going to do with land when they cross. I

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1 know we have topsoil -- and topsoil not being made.
2 When you go down to P&L in Palmar, they cut ruts
3 there from 12 to 16 inches deep all winter and rains
4 hit and the water would wash out, there wasn't no
5 crossings on ditches, they just let it go and tore
6 out through wherever they wanted to and let it lay a
7 couple of months, and pretty soon, start cutting the
8 topsoil off and filling back in the ruts. Well,
9 that's what's going to happen here, because these
10 contractors, a lot of them are union, a lot of them
11 non-union. They still give the people so much
12 standby a day, when they hit these jobs, and they
13 are going to plow when it's wet. Don't anybody have
14 an assumption that they're not going to be out there
15 in that ground when it's muddy. Well, when they're
16 out there when it's muddy, they're going to be
17 tearing up the topsoils, and our farms are not
18 having any topsoil made. We got to utilize what we
19 got to.

20 So I don't have not more to say on that,
21 but I hope there's a lot of -- I hope you gentleman
22 have a lot of attention to what is being said. I am
23 a landowner. Like I said, I've work in the pipeline
24 construction for 44 years, and I've seen a lot of
25 right of ways and the way they've been taken care

1 of, but what I've seen of electric right of ways,
2 they're really bad, and as far as what they pay for
3 these towers, I think that price stinks, and I just
4 hope that you-all pay attention to what is being
5 said here tonight to give a lot of thought. We sure
6 appreciate it, and I thank you gentleman for your
7 time.

8 MR. BUSHMAN: Thank you.

9 Kevin Reed.

10 KEVIN REED,

11 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
12 follows:

13 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
14 spell your last name.

15 MR. REED: Kevin Reed, R-e-e-d. I live in
16 North Kansas City. The Grain Belt would impact two
17 farms that are over in the Caldwell County. The --
18 when this thing all first started, there was some
19 meetings held, and we went to some of the meetings,
20 and at first they decided, Well, they were going to
21 go down 36 Highway, and I thought, Well, okay,
22 that's 12 miles away from us, that's -- shouldn't be
23 any big problem, and I kind of lost concern. Well,
24 then later on, they decided they were going to go
25 along the same route as three pipelines that are in

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1 there now, so I talked to them a little bit more, so
2 I got to quizzing them. I said, Just exactly where
3 do you think this line is going to go? Oh, here's
4 our plan, here's exactly where we're going. I said,
5 Okay. So I looked at the map, and, again, it wasn't
6 going to impact these two farms that already have
7 three existing pipelines on them. So I said,
8 Well -- I go, That's okay, still not impacted. So
9 the next thing we know, well, we go to another
10 meeting. Oh, well, we're going across these farms
11 now. Again, I said, Okay, is this the route? Is
12 this where you're going? Oh, yeah, this is the
13 route, this is definitely it. This is where we're
14 going. I go to another meeting, Oh, it's going to
15 impact this farm, but it's not going to impact that
16 farm. So I quizzed them. I said, Have you guys
17 checked any of the right of ways? Have you checked
18 for any existing easements? Have you checked for
19 any of this stuff? We're not concerned about that.
20 We're going to come through, we're going to put in
21 our lines, and when we're done, we'll have an
22 engineering firm follow us, and they'll give you the
23 layout exact easement of where we went. Well, I'm
24 not sure how you guys feel about that, but that
25 doesn't seem like a very acceptable plan to me. I

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1 work -- I've been in the construction industry for
2 years, and when we go out and work, we always have
3 things staked, layed out, easements are in place,
4 everything is ready to go. These guys are wanting
5 to just come through, go wherever they want, and
6 let's take care of this later. Well, so at the last
7 meeting, I quizzed them. I said, Okay, now this is
8 the route; correct? And their representative that
9 was there, he says, Yes, that's it. I said, Now, do
10 you realize there's already easements in place that
11 you will not be allowed to cross, because those
12 easements are already sold? Can't sell them again,
13 pipeline owns them. That's no problem, we'll handle
14 that. Well, it can't be handled. They're already
15 there, and it's not allowed. So I quizzed them a
16 little more. I said, Well, how are you going to
17 take care of this? Well, once we get approval from
18 the Public Service Commission, we'll just do what we
19 want. So I asked them, Well, let's go for a little
20 bit of background on your company. Well, the
21 background that they could tell me is they don't own
22 anything anywhere. I said, Where's your office?
23 Oh, I office out of my house. This thing just looks
24 like -- you know, unless they get your approval,
25 this whole thing is like a house of cards, it's

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1 going to fold up. That looks like a pretty big
2 concern to me. So -- he said, I'll tell you what,
3 we'll just go ahead and buy your easement back. So
4 I said, Okay, so what happens if we sell you an
5 easement and then you don't get approval of Missouri
6 Public Service Commission? The answer to that was,
7 Well, we just will be out of luck and we'll be done,
8 and that will be that. I go, Well, what's going to
9 happen to all of this money and effort and
10 everything you've put into this? Well, I don't
11 know, it's all dependent upon that.

12 Well, I kind of hate to think that this
13 whole venture is completely dependent being upon
14 your backs whether or not they get approval. So
15 then I get to thinking about it a little more.
16 We've got three pipelines that go across these two
17 farms that are going to be impacted. The reason why
18 we have three pipelines across them is because in
19 the early 50s, one of the pipeline companies came
20 through, and at fair market value, they came in and
21 they asked the landowners, What would you take for
22 the property rights so we can come through here and
23 do this? And they made a deal. We have since
24 purchased this land with the pipelines already on
25 it, but they did it without Missouri Public Service

1 Commission status, so why was this other company
2 capable of coming through and doing fair market
3 value -- and those pipelines go from -- I don't
4 honestly know. They say somewhere in Montana, all
5 the way back to Pennsylvania, the original one,
6 supposedly, but they were able to do that at fair
7 market value. They came through to each property
8 owner, made a deal. If they couldn't make a deal,
9 they varied their line, that's why the line's where
10 it's at, and that's why it moves around, is because
11 they had to make deals, but they were able to do it
12 in a free market -- you know, fair market value, and
13 they were able to make it all the way across the
14 country, not just across Missouri. They went
15 through several more states.

16 MR. BUSHMAN: Five minutes.

17 MR. REED: Okay. Thank you very much for
18 your time.

19 MR. AGATHEN: Thank you for your
20 testimony.

21 MR. BUSHMAN: Any questions?

22 Thank you.

23 Russell Pisciotta.

24 RUSSELL PISCIOTTA,

25 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as

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1 follows:

2 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
3 spell your last name.

4 MR. PISCIOTTA: I'm Russell Pisciotta,
5 that's spelled P-i-s-c-i-o-t-t-a.

6 MR. BUSHMAN: Where do you live?

7 MR. PISCIOTTA: The township of Caldwell
8 County, Missouri.

9 MR. BUSHMAN: Go ahead.

10 MR. PISCIOTTA: I'd first like to start
11 off by thanking the commission for holding eight
12 hearings across the state, attempting to accommodate
13 as many people as possible. I'd also like start by
14 saying that I understand -- because we've heard --
15 I've been to -- this it my eighth hearing now, and
16 I've heard a lot of testimonies, and so I wanted to
17 kind of clear up some of these things. Some people
18 have said -- and I won't go over everything that has
19 already been covered, but I would like to start by
20 saying that I understand that -- and do not doubt
21 the science behind climate change, and I also
22 understand that Missouri has renewable energy
23 standards of 15 percent renewables by 2021, and I
24 understand those and appreciate them. I also am a
25 long time advocate of conservation and the use of

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1 renewable energy sources.

2 If Missourians need the power and would
3 receive any significant amount of it, I can -- I
4 speak for myself and probably most of the members of
5 our group, Block Grain Belt Express, that we would
6 not be here tonight. There would be virtually no
7 opposition if Missourians really needed this
8 electricity and really would benefit from it, but
9 that is not the case. And we keep hearing stories
10 about -- oh, about how these lines -- or similar to
11 the lines when they first came through here and
12 brought electricity to the farmers, that just is not
13 the case. Missouri has abundant, inexpensive
14 electricity right now, and no one is relying on this
15 electricity. I wanted to say I'm strongly opposed
16 to Grain Belt Express Clean Line for many reasons,
17 most of them have been eloquently covered so many
18 times at hearings. I'm primarily opposed to this
19 project as it offers virtually no proven benefit
20 to the state of Missouri -- no significant benefit
21 or necessity. I'm also opposed because it would
22 inflict enormous burden in damages and risks to
23 areas on and near the lines.

24 I'm a little bit nervous, pardon me.

25 Landowners would be forced to sell -- just

1 to give you an idea, I'm sure you already know, but
2 to give you an idea of the size and the scale of
3 this property, according to my estimation,
4 landowners will be forced to sell about 5,000 --
5 over 5,000 acres of property in these easements.
6 That's forced to sell, and that is huge. So, any
7 way, in terms of the benefit that this line will
8 give the state -- the state -- Clean Line promises
9 up to 500 megawatts of electricity, and the key word
10 there is up to 500 megawatts of electricity. That
11 is promised to be enough power for 200,000 homes,
12 but 200,000 homes is only 7 percent of all the
13 housing units in the state, 7 percent. That
14 calculates out to be about 2 kilowatts per home.
15 Two kilowatts per home is about ten percent of the
16 typical homes requirements. Also, as far as -- and
17 I've been following this very closely over the last
18 14 months or so, and I know of no contracts of any
19 customers purchasing electricity yet. No customers
20 whatsoever. If there was a benefit to this project,
21 there would be customers, in my mind. There's no
22 guarantees for a converter station -- that a
23 converter station would be built. If a converter
24 station would be built, there would be no benefit to
25 the folks on the west side of this state. There

1 would also be no benefit to the Amish community that
2 the line does dissect.

3 There's only a negligible amount of
4 electricity promised to be dropped in Missouri in
5 order to satisfy the needs of the public service
6 commission, that's a negligible amount. I really
7 believe that the project is all about developing
8 electricity to the east coast where it sells for
9 much more money, and we are just in the path. We
10 are the path -- I think I've even seen a document
11 that says, "Just passing through." It was a Clean
12 Line document from early on that has a map, and it
13 shows -- and the title on the top of the diagram --
14 the graphic was "Just Passing Through."

15 So, anyway -- I also wanted to say that I
16 do appreciate the concerns of the environmentalist
17 that I have heard testify in some of the other
18 hearings, and some folks had some things to say
19 about the environment here tonight. I agree with
20 them, I share their concerns. I also do not agree
21 with -- that the project would be beneficial to the
22 environment. Clean Line is promising -- or for the
23 following reasons, that is. Clean Line is promising
24 to transmit only clean, renewable energy; however,
25 regulations prohibit lines from discriminating

1 against any source of power. They cannot rule out
2 any source of power, so we need to get -- and we
3 also need to consider the fact of climate change of
4 the deforestation of hundreds of acres of trees
5 along the easements in Missouri alone will occur
6 from this transmission line. Trees, as everyone
7 knows, have an affect on the climate and the
8 weather. They remove CO2 form the air. According
9 to the EPA, trees take in from 35 to 800 pounds of
10 CO2 two per year, depending on the size. They
11 produce oxygen. They transpire water, taking it by
12 roots, and release it as water vapor, which has a
13 cooling effect. Large trees can transpire about
14 40,000 gallons per year, according to the USGS.

15 MR. BUSHMAN: Five minutes.

16 MR. PISCIOTTA: Okay. Thank you.

17 MR. MELINSKI: I'll give mine up, if he
18 needs it.

19 MR. BUSHMAN: What's your name, sir?

20 MR. MELINSKI: Jack Melinski.

21 MR. BUSHMAN: Okay. Thank you.

22 Go ahead, sir.

23 MR. PISCIOTTA: Leaves also filter out
24 particles of dust, carbon monoxide, ozone, and other
25 pollutants from the air.

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1 So as -- one of the current trends right
2 now is to purchase locally produced food, I believe,
3 and I believe that we should produce locally
4 renewable energy wherever possible, and so --
5 anyway, another point that I'd like to make is Clean
6 Line and their supporters are promising many, many
7 job opportunities; however, virtually all the jobs
8 would be temporary. I heard the fellow from
9 Hubble -- the representative from Hubble earlier. I
10 heard him say the statement, Over the life of the
11 agreement. That sounds like temporary to me. The
12 construction will last a period of -- a set period
13 of time and will be over with. Construction jobs
14 will likely be hired by out-of-town contractors.
15 The contracts will likely be awarded to the lowest
16 bidder, not the nearest bidder. So Missouri plants
17 and contractors may not even get the work they're
18 expecting and lobbying for. Any jobs created will
19 be offset by jobs lost and plant closings elsewhere.
20 I understand that folks need work. I appreciate
21 that, and I appreciate that the folks are willing to
22 work, but they're asking an awful lot of the
23 landowners. They're asking an awful lot of the
24 landowners to force them to sell a 200-foot wide
25 spot through their own property that they bought and

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1 paid for or inherited so they can have a temporary
2 job to construct something that is potentially
3 dangerous, unnecessary, it's an eyesore, an
4 obstacle, and would remain on your property forever.
5 That's asking an awful lot, folks.

6 Clean Line is also making empty promises
7 of lower electricity rates. One reason to show that
8 it is not the case because there is an insignificant
9 amount of electricity promised to the state that
10 would -- such a small amount of electricity promised
11 to the state that it would not affect the market.
12 The numbers that two Clean Line supporters gave in
13 testimony last evening in St. Joe were very
14 misleading and inaccurate. They compared the
15 wholesale price of wind energy, wind electricity
16 with the retail prices -- with retail electric
17 rates. They compared 2.3 cents per kilowatt hour
18 versus 12 cents retail rate. That is just totally
19 misleading. Of course, the wholesale rate is much
20 cheaper and always will be than the retail rate.
21 According to Mike Fuller, general manager of
22 Consolidated Electric in Mexico, Missouri, who
23 attended on of our group meetings a few months ago,
24 he said that their co-op pays around 2.4, 2.5 cents
25 per kilowatt hour. That is not much different than

1 what is coming out of the electric wind farms. And
2 according to Clean Line president and founder
3 Michael Skelly, who testified at an Illinois
4 commerce commission hearing for a sister Clean
5 Line project, Rock Island Line, he said that rate
6 payers could be forced to pay for the project
7 through some sort of fork-based cost allocation if
8 Clean Line has insufficient revenues to support the
9 project, end quote. So we could ended up -- if
10 Missouri does receive any electricity, we could end
11 up paying for part of this project, even though
12 it's -- they claim to be a merchant-owned project.

13 Clean Line is also making some projections
14 of tax revenues that counties would receive, which
15 are totally unsubstantiated. I've heard them
16 repeated tonight. That's unfortunate that counties
17 are actually taking the debate, and without doing
18 the research themselves. The value of the line is
19 not simply the cost of construction, as Clean
20 Line has made it out to be. The formula that the
21 state uses to value the lines involves a complex
22 formula, and it involves their financial statement,
23 their debt-to-equity ratio, and likely would not be
24 at all similar to any other lines or utilities or
25 railroads, as you -- I sure I'm probably not telling

1 you anything you don't already know, but I thought
2 I'd say it anyway. We learned this information from
3 several phone calls to the Missouri State Division
4 of Taxation. Again, it involves financial
5 statement, their debt-to-equity ratio, and that is
6 important because this company has nothing but debt
7 and no equity. They also use an example when we
8 spoke with them on the phone that a virtually
9 identical utility line could actually -- two
10 different identical lines could actually have very,
11 very, very, very different assessed values, so that
12 is important to us. They like to compare it with --
13 I heard railroads a little while ago, and I've heard
14 it before, where they compared with what KCP&L
15 thinks, and it makes no difference what the
16 line consists of, it has more to do with their
17 financial statement of the company, and this
18 company, again, has never sold anything.

19 MR. BUSHMAN: Ten minutes.

20 MR. PISCIOTTA: Thank you.

21 MS. FISHER: If he needs more time, I will
22 yield my time to him.

23 MR. BUSHMAN: What's your name, ma'am?

24 MS. FISHER: Julia Fisher.

25 MR. BUSHMAN: You're not on my list. I

1 don't think you were.

2 MS. FISHER: I would have. I was ready
3 to.

4 MR. BUSHMAN: Okay.

5 MR. PISCIOTTA: I'll sum it here very
6 quick.

7 I also believe that the population centers
8 on the east coast can develop their own wind
9 resources, which the Department of Energy has
10 determined to be superior of those in the Great
11 Plains. I believe that the wind resources in the
12 wind belt of Kansas and Oklahoma and up north
13 through there should be used in the Midwest, and,
14 like I said, the wind resources offshore should be
15 used right adjacent to their -- in the population
16 centers right adjacent to them. I'm also strongly
17 in favor of the centralized solar and wind systems
18 at home and commercial buildings. And in
19 conclusion -- I'll sum this up. Missouri will not
20 benefit from the project and does not need it. It
21 would place a heavy burden on landowners on and near
22 the transmission lines. Their after-tax
23 compensation would likely not cover their losses and
24 damages that would be incurred in perpetuity.
25 Therefore, I respectfully urge you, the commission,

1 to deny the Grain Belt Express application for
2 certificate of convenience and necessity.

3 I thank you for your time, and I
4 appreciate everything you do.

5 MR. BUSHMAN: Bill Boelsen.

6 WILLIAM BOELSEN,
7 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
8 follows:

9 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
10 spell your last name.

11 MR. BOELSEN: My name is William, but they
12 call me Bill Boelsen, B-o-e-l-s-e-n.

13 MR. BUSHMAN: Where do you live sir?

14 MR. BOELSEN: I live at 616 Pearl Street
15 in Carrollton, Missouri. I am a Carroll County
16 commissioner for District 1.

17 MR. BUSHMAN: Please go ahead.

18 MR. BOELSEN: I have been listening to a
19 lot of conversation. I'm going to tell you a little
20 bit about myself. I grew up 9 miles east of here
21 down Highway 24. The first ten years of my life, I
22 did not have electricity. I can tell you how great
23 I think it is. I attend the University of Missouri.
24 I graduated some 53 years ago. I have worked for,
25 like, four large corporations. I have worked for,

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1 like, four small corporations. They had one thing
2 in common, they all wanted to make a profit. They
3 had a chance because this is a great country. We --
4 people have an idea, they think they're going to do
5 something, they raise money, and they pursue it,
6 which I think they should have that opportunity.
7 Everyone in this room who claims they're farmers,
8 they don't farm for the fun of it, they farm for the
9 profit, and this -- some of the complaints I've
10 heard about this company is that it's a for-profit
11 company. My goodness, that's what the whole world
12 is about. They also claim there is some foreign
13 investment. I think that's great. People in other
14 countries have enough confidence in the United
15 States to put money in this company. They think
16 it's going to do well, and I think that the
17 infrastructure needs to be improved in the
18 electrical grid. I worked for the last ten years of
19 my career, before I became a Carroll County
20 politician, in high voltage electricity, and I have
21 seen a lot of old junk out there. And just to give
22 you one simple example, if you look at transformers,
23 if they have brown insulators on top of them and not
24 the gray ones, that were built before 1972. Just
25 pay attention as you go down the road.

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1 I thank you for the opportunity to speak
2 in front of this group, and I hope this thing goes
3 forward.

4 MR. BUSHMAN: Questions?

5 Thank you, sir.

6 Sherry Needhah.

7 SHERRY NEEDHAH,
8 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
9 follows:

10 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
11 spell your last name.

12 MS. NEEDHAM: Sherry Needhah.

13 MR. BUSHMAN: And where do you live?

14 MS. NEEDHAM: Cameron, Missouri.

15 MR. BUSHMAN: Please go ahead.

16 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you.

17 Thank you, Judge Bushman, for moderating
18 all of these and for the time that you've devoted,
19 and I want to thank the commissioners. It's really
20 a privilege and an honor, to discover what you do.
21 I've learned a lot, and your staff, I want you to
22 know, has been extremely helpful. They have really
23 listened, they've answered my questions, and they've
24 directed me on how to find answers, because there's
25 a lot I didn't know, so I am just really happy --

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1 I'm grateful for all of you and for the opportunity
2 to speak.

3 I like Missouri. I was born in Kansas
4 City, Missouri. This is where I choose to live.
5 I've lived all over the world. I've lived in
6 England. I've lived in Australia. I lived in
7 Africa, but guess where I came home? I came home to
8 Missouri. I have to say I like it. I have people
9 that sometimes say, How can you live in Missouri?
10 But, you know, Missouri is beautiful. It's a great
11 place to live. I saved forty years with my husband
12 to create the asset that I currently have in my
13 farm, and I manage that asset to produce good things
14 in Missouri. Currently, that is grass fed, healthy
15 beef. We have the option, also, to build houses on
16 the land where we are, and we would build that for
17 folks who want to live the American dream. My
18 husband is a builder, so if we were to build those
19 homes, then we would have the profit from those
20 homes, and that would be part of our retirement plan
21 that we have scheduled for ourselves. We believe
22 that being able to do that is good asset management,
23 but the question I have is, What person would buy
24 those homes if they're next to ugly power lines,
25 and, also, if there are potential dangers, whether

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1 they're real or perceived. The probably just
2 wouldn't want it in their backyard. I'm proud to be
3 a part of the grassroots effort of neighbors being
4 neighborly. We're actually living out what Judge
5 Bushman has requested at these hearings, which is to
6 treat others the way that we, ourselves, would like
7 to be treated, and we're doing it every day, not
8 just at these hearings.

9 Originally, the lines were sighted on my
10 land. I'm speaking to you today because I still
11 believe that you should not issue a certificate of
12 convenience and necessity to Grain Belt Express. I
13 believe that the can-do spirit of Missourians can
14 find a better way. I am a breast cancer survivor.
15 One of the things that I do is I no longer carry my
16 cell phone on my body. This is with the approval
17 and the encouragement of my oncologist. I actually
18 limit my time in front of the computer. My husband
19 has made it so that now, even though we have a
20 router that sends out the wireless signal, we turn
21 it off so that we no -- we don't have that
22 constantly in our house. So one of the things I do
23 is practice avoidance, and having power lines close
24 to a house means you can't practice avoidance as a
25 cancer survivor.

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1 I made up a parable about the difference
2 between the folks who want the money that they can
3 get from the Grain Belt Express project, if it's
4 approved, and the people whose land is taken, if the
5 project happens. So it's kind of like being invited
6 to a steak and eggs breakfast, which is pretty good,
7 and it's a common thing in Missouri. The folks who
8 want the money that come from the project, they
9 bring their eggs to the table, but me, the
10 landowner, I am the beautiful steer that gets
11 slaughtered so you can have the Ribeye steak. So
12 they're still alive, but guess what, I'm dead? So
13 it's a slight difference, you know, in what
14 commitment you have.

15 I would like to ask, you know, what
16 guarantee you or proof you have for Grain Belt
17 Express of how many of the jobs and contracts will
18 be awarded specifically to Missourians? Do you have
19 proof that the supposed tax benefit will actually be
20 what is being stated or predicted? As I've listened
21 to people who are favorable to Grain Belt Express,
22 I've been, I believe, to all of the hearings except
23 two, many have stated that their support comes with
24 the expectation that the landowners are properly
25 compensated, some even implied that they would not

1 support it otherwise. What stipulation will you
2 make that ensures that the landowners are properly
3 compensated? If you award a certificate of
4 convenience and necessity to Grain Belt Express, are
5 you creating a precedent where Missouri simply
6 becomes a doormat for outside interests? What
7 guarantee or proof do you have from Grain Belt
8 Express that they're capable of building these
9 structures in a way that is beneficial and safe for
10 Missouri? In light of the studies that were
11 released showing the relationship between leukemia
12 and power lines, what new proof has Grain Belt
13 Express given you that the distance of their towers
14 from people's homes is actually safe? What
15 provision are you making for the families whose
16 houses are near the line, but they're not receiving
17 any compensation because the line is not on their
18 property?

19 I think that one thing that has really
20 impressed me about you as commissioners is I believe
21 that you really care about Missouri, and that's
22 awesome. This has been an amazing experience for me
23 to be able to walk through this. As you address the
24 convenience and the necessity of the project, how
25 does it align with the health and lifestyle values

1 of Missouri? Will you stipulate that Missouri land
2 is treated with as much respect by Grain Belt
3 Express as it is by farmers like me and my husband?

4 The Missouri Department of Transportation
5 completed a study that questions the safety of
6 running DC power lines next to highways. Did anyone
7 anticipate or expect that they would discover that
8 power lines would have this detrimental effect -- DC
9 power lines, that they would have a detrimental
10 effect on highways? I think it may have been
11 unexpected. My question would be, What proof do you
12 have from Grain Belt Express that there are not
13 invisible forces impacting the environment that
14 nobody expected?

15 Thank you very much for choosing to honor
16 the values and the beauty of Missouri. I am very,
17 very grateful.

18 MR. BUSHMAN: Thank you.

19 Donald Davis.

20 MR. DAVIS: Darren Farmers got a little
21 bit more he'd like to say, I'll give my time up to
22 him.

23 MR. BUSHMAN: Okay.

24 You're still under oath, sir. Just state
25 your name again for the record.

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1 MR. FARMER: Darren Farmer, F-a-r-m-e-r.

2 MR. BUSHMAN: Please go ahead.

3 MR. FARMER: One of the key things that I
4 wanted to talk about that I forgot earlier was that
5 after we received notification through the postal
6 carrier, my cousin, as I said, that brought it to
7 us, the land agent or whoever that was trying to get
8 the easement from Grain Belt kept calling, and my
9 grandfather said, No, have my dad take care of it.
10 My dad called the land agent and said, We are not
11 willing to deal at this time, and they kept calling,
12 they kept calling, and, finally, he said, We have an
13 offer you need to listen to it, and dad says, Well,
14 do you have imminent domain? Well, no. Well, then
15 we don't want to talk to you. And they still kept
16 calling, and finally he says, Until you get this
17 ruling, we do not want to talk to you, and to me, if
18 they're pressuring people after they're telling them
19 no, you know, what's -- what end do they have? You
20 know they must be really grasping for straws or
21 something to that nature, because I don't understand
22 why when someone says, We're not interested because
23 you do not have that authority, why would you go
24 ahead and proceed with it? And I know the gentleman
25 a while ago talked about a for-profit company.

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1 Well, if Grain Belt is for profit, then why do they
2 need eminent domain to get this project complete,
3 because if they're willing to pay, then, of course,
4 landowners would be willing to work with them and do
5 what they need to, but I guess they feel like
6 eminent domain is the only way that they're going
7 to go, so it feels like they're just trying to go
8 through this process to grant that.

9 And I appreciate the time that you guys
10 gave me, and thank you for consideration of
11 everything with this issue.

12 MR. BUSHMAN: Thank you.

13 Lori Smith.

14 LORI SMITH,
15 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
16 follows:

17 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
18 spell your last name.

19 MS. SMITH: Lori Smith, S-m-i-t-h. I live
20 in Moberly, Missouri in Randolph County.

21 MR. BUSHMAN: Please go ahead.

22 MS. SMITH: Okay. Well, I appreciate that
23 you've had to sit through all of these lengthy
24 meetings, and I have already spoken before, but I
25 was asked -- I had made mention of real estate

1 evaluations, and I was asked for documentation,
2 which I had neglected to bring to the previous
3 hearing, and so with that, I have a little bit of
4 commentary. I do have those documents with me
5 tonight.

6 What I wanted to say is that, certainly,
7 there are studies that will say that there's no
8 effect of these power lines on the property values,
9 but when you look at those studies, they tend to be
10 in areas with a different demographic and lifestyle
11 than what we're talking about here, different
12 topography, different land use, and they're
13 typically in places where the trees are tall enough
14 to obscure the towers, efforts have been made to
15 greatly mitigate the impact on landowners, and this
16 can be seen in Seattle and Oregon, and what you'll
17 typically also find more importantly is that the
18 studies that tell us there's no land evaluations are
19 funded by utility companies. When we were obtaining
20 signatures for petition, just a couple days we went
21 out, and a lady by the name of Janice Whittaker told
22 us that her neighbors had a home buyer ready to
23 sign, but when they disclosed that the property was
24 in the projected path, that buyer backed out. We
25 have new neighbors by us who said that had they been

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1 aware this power line was coming through, they would
2 have looked elsewhere. I have a friend in Michigan
3 who has been house hunting, and she sent me pictures
4 of a beautiful home that she viewed there. She knew
5 the seller, and so she asked, Why would you leave
6 such a great place and a community where you have
7 long-time roots. The reply was that they wanted a
8 fresh start. Well, they've been dropping their
9 price for some time, and she found out that they are
10 in a projected path of a power line with a tower
11 scheduled to be in their backyard. They haven't had
12 too much interest in that property. Our local
13 realtors in the county that I'm from have remained
14 mum on the subject. Could that be because it does
15 not behoove them to admit that there's any negative
16 effect? To me it is somewhat like the legend of the
17 emperor's new clothes. If we just pretend
18 everything is fine, maybe everyone will start to
19 agree. Now, these environmentalists are coming and
20 talking about climate change, and, you know, that's
21 all well and good, but they don't seem to grasp the
22 impact that these concrete anchors and steel towers
23 and line emissions would create, along with, as was
24 mentioned, the deforestation, and I do have some
25 figures on that to submit to you as well. Clean

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1 Line is, of course, touting this green effect, but
2 they've admitted that when the wind is not blowing,
3 other fuels, such as coal, will be used.

4 And I just want to go back -- there's been
5 a lot of discussion in these meetings about the
6 transparency of Clean Line. Adhar Johnson stated on
7 ABC news that they're not trying to take anyone's
8 land, but they are negotiating fairly with
9 landowners and offering compensation that far
10 exceeds the industry standard. But then I asked her
11 at one of their Grain Belt express meetings, and
12 there were two witnesses beside me. I said, Why are
13 you, you know, you saying that you're not seeking
14 eminent domain, because when we won't sign your
15 contract, that is exactly what you're going to be
16 seeking, is it not? And she replied, Yes. As many
17 others before me have stated, we also -- my family
18 also found out about this project from a neighbor,
19 not from Clean Line, and not until March of this
20 year. We have spoken with many people in Kansas,
21 Illinois, and Iowa, and we get the same story all
22 the time. Clean Line rolls into town like the music
23 man trying to convince everyone of a need we did not
24 have, then they form some curious alliance with
25 county commissioners, any that they can get on board

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1 with them, then they romance some local businesses,
2 making promises that past history shows they're
3 highly unlikely to keep, and then when once they've
4 garnered that support, they tell the landowners,
5 it's a done deal and we better sign, and when
6 landowners still refuse to sign, they pressure them
7 with the claim, The longer you hold out, the less
8 you're going to get. Those people who spoke in
9 favor of these lines tonight, once again -- and
10 we've heard it over and over -- it's for the tax
11 revenues and the jobs, and as you are aware, there's
12 a Missouri statute that prohibits eminent domain for
13 those two reasons. There is no fair compensation
14 for something that's not for sale, so then -- it
15 brings me back to the legend of the emperor's new
16 clothes, and when all is said and done, I think that
17 the folks are going to conclude that the emperor is,
18 indeed, naked.

19 And that's all I have -- my documents to
20 turn in too.

21 MR. BUSHMAN: Did you want to have those
22 documents included in the record?

23 MS. SMITH: I do.

24 MR. BUSHMAN: Okay. Can you bring them up
25 here?

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1 MS. SMITH: Sure.

2 MR. KENNEY: I have a question.

3 Ms. Smith, thanks for being here and being
4 in Moberly as well. You mentioned that someone --
5 or that you heard or that someone said to you, the
6 longer you hold out, the less you'll get. Did
7 someone actually say that to you, or did one of your
8 neighbors relay that to you or ...

9 MS. SMITH: I haven't negotiated with
10 them, but my neighbors have told me that, and I've
11 heard it multiple times.

12 MR. KENNEY: Okay. Did they say who said
13 or anything like that?

14 MS. SMITH: Well they didn't tell me who
15 the name of the person.

16 MR. KENNEY: Okay. All right.

17 MS. SMITH: Sorry. I wish I were prepared
18 with that.

19 MR. KENNEY: No that's all right. All
20 right. And thank you again for being here.

21 MS. SMITH: Thank you very much.

22 MR. BUSHMAN: And for the record, these
23 exhibits will be received into the report, subject
24 to the objections of other parties.

25 Marilyn O'Bannon?

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1 MARILYN O'BANNON,
2 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
3 follows:

4 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
5 spell your last name.

6 MS. O'BANNON: Marilyn O'Bannon
7 O--'B-a-n-n-o-n, and I'm from Madison, Missouri.
8 That's in Monroe County.

9 As you know, this is my second time to be
10 up before the commissioners and the judge. Thank
11 you for allowing me to speak this evening. I'm
12 sure, as you've traveled the county, some of the
13 concerns now can be categorized and seem somewhat
14 redundant. I am a landowner on the route in Monroe
15 County. In fact, among my family members, Grain
16 Belt Express is crossing 11 different farm
17 locations. This is also including a Century Farm.
18 These farms a considered prime in our area. They
19 are clean acres of farm ground. The line will span
20 approximately 5 miles of my family and relative's
21 farm's ground, not along the edge of the field or
22 the right of way, I'm talking right down the middle
23 of the fields. In some fields, the Grain Belt
24 Express line will run parallel to the central
25 electric H poles that were just reinstalled. I can

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1 tell you firsthand the destruction of acres just to
2 upgrade those central electric lines, but, you know,
3 it's easier to handle when you know you are
4 receiving a benefit, the convenience, and understand
5 the necessity. We heard the definitions earlier of
6 convenience and necessity, and so I don't want to
7 repeat that again, because I had that kind of lined
8 out to speak to tonight, but convenience is
9 something that's suitable for the situation, it
10 should make you feel comfortable. And a necessity
11 is an urgent need or desire, something you must
12 have, something that is necessary for the quality or
13 state of being in need. So somebody needs to tell
14 me how Clean Line can even be considered for a
15 certificate of convenience and necessity based on
16 the definitions.

17 My local cooperative has really been able
18 to explain to me how even on the coldest days of
19 winter, and you know how brutal winter was, that we
20 had an excess of electricity. They were able to
21 sell that excess of electricity and bring that
22 savings back to me, the customer, and in addition, I
23 also get a patronage every year from them. I do not
24 see that electricity from the clean line project is
25 going to be a benefit, and in the economic benefits

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1 are really for who? This has already been brought
2 up several times tonight. The rich investors. The
3 claims of jobs and revenues will be overshadowed by
4 the damages caused to the landowners. Farmers are
5 used to putting up with what is dealt to them. The
6 weather conditions, market fluctuations, farming
7 costs, and they usually remain optimistic and see
8 the good. Well, Clean Line is not good. Those of
9 us in agriculture are progressive. We want the most
10 up-to-date, cost-effective methods, and, of course,
11 rely on renewable resources, such as taking care of
12 the land to help feed the world. How can Clean
13 Line fulfill convenience and necessity when wind
14 power is far more expensive and far less reliable,
15 let alone run it through several states to serve a
16 population so far away?

17 About 66 percent of Missouri is comprised
18 of farmland. Missouri agriculture is ranked high in
19 most categories. In 2013, the Missouri ag industry
20 contributed \$11.4 billion dollars to the Missouri
21 economy. Are we going to compromise what so many
22 have sacrificed for a project like Grain Belt
23 Express?

24 I do ask the Public Service Commission to
25 deny Clean Line's application. I appreciate the

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1 time, especially the time given to me again, very
2 much.

3 MR. BUSHMAN: Thank you.
4 Ron Staggs.

5 RON STAGGS,
6 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
7 follows:

8 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
9 spell your last name.

10 MR. STAGGS: My name is Ron Staggs.
11 That's S-t-a-g-g-s.

12 MR. BUSHMAN: Where do you reside, sir?

13 MR. STAGGS: I live at rural Paris,
14 Missouri in Monroe County.

15 MR. BUSHMAN: Please go ahead.

16 MR. STAGGS: I'm here tonight to convey
17 some information, or food for thought, for the
18 people that are here speaking on behalf of this.
19 Our president gave us a quote that under his
20 policies, our electricity rates would necessarily
21 skyrocket, and that's one reason why we're here
22 tonight is already, with the shut down of coal-fired
23 plants due this next January, power will be needed,
24 especially on the energy starved northeast. That's
25 where this power will primarily be used. This power

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1 is also unregulated. The cost is whatever they say
2 it is, whatever the market will bear. So if this
3 next year is a harsh winter, like it was last year,
4 the big cities back east will bidding up the price
5 of all forms of power across the United States. Who
6 do you think is going to get the brunt? Who can
7 afford to pay for it and who cannot afford to pay
8 for it? I will tell you that they will buy up as
9 much power and all of the power that we may need for
10 ourselves here. That if they do drop off power in
11 Ralls County and service, that will go into the rate
12 base at whatever price they choose to sell it to
13 those people. You as a customer, or the people in
14 Ralls County or -- and nearby will pay a higher
15 rate, and when you have higher rates, over time, we
16 will find out that that mere pittance in tax dollars
17 is wiped out by the increased cost in utility rates.
18 And to paraphrase again what our president has told
19 us, under his policies, electricity rates will
20 necessarily skyrocket. He didn't say slight
21 increase, he said, skyrocket. Can you afford to
22 double your utility rates? Can businesses afford
23 utility rates? What do they do? They pass that
24 cost onto you. So not only are you going to pay
25 higher utility rates, but every goods and service

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1 that you purchase will have that tacked into the
2 ultimate cost. That does to the serve Missouri very
3 well, and I hope those who are proponents of it
4 remember that if you get this, you will be
5 contributing to increased costs, fewer jobs, because
6 business will leave. The counties are concerned
7 about their tax dollars for students. Well, if your
8 parents can't afford to live here, you won't have
9 students.

10 That concludes my testimony. Thank you.

11 MR. BUSHMAN: Thank you, sir.

12 MR. STOLL: Thank you for your testimony.

13 MR. BUSHMAN: Is there anyone who did not
14 sign the list that would like to speak?

15 Yes, ma'am. Did you have something -- you
16 testified quite extensively a while ago. Do you
17 have something new in addition to what you --

18 MS. GATREL: Just very briefly.

19 MR. BUSHMAN: Okay.

20 JENNIFER GATREL,
21 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
22 follows:

23 MR. BUSHMAN: Could you state your name.

24 MS. GATREL: Jennifer Gatrel, G-a-t-r-e-l.

25 MR. BUSHMAN: Okay.

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1 MS. GATREL: And I promise I'll make it
2 brief this time, gentlemen.

3 I just wanted to talk a little bit about
4 the incredible movement that has occurred. There's
5 people here in this room and across the 14 counties
6 that would never have met other -- rather than this
7 project. We have been united by this terrible wrong
8 that this private company is trying to do to us, and
9 from the bottom of my heart, I just want to say
10 thank you all. You didn't have to come here to do
11 these eight meetings. You didn't have to sit here
12 and listen intently and ask good questions the
13 entire time, and you didn't have to give us a
14 chance, but you did, and win, lose, or draw, I just
15 want to say thank you from all of us for hearing us
16 and taking our property rights seriously. Thank
17 you.

18 MR. BUSHMAN: Is there anyone else?

19 Yes sir. Mr. Henke. You testified also.
20 Did you have something in addition to what you've
21 already told us before?

22 MR. HENKE: Yes.

23 MR. BUSHMAN: Okay.

24 RON HENKE,
25 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as

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1 follows:

2 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
3 spell your last name.

4 MR. HENKE: Ron Henke.

5 MR. BUSHMAN: And your residence?

6 MR. HENKE: Salisbury, Missouri.

7 MR. BUSHMAN: Go ahead.

8 MR. HENKE: Earlier testimony, there was
9 are gentleman who got up and said that construction
10 would be minimal because they produce a helical
11 pier. Well, I bought some of those piers. They're
12 holding my house up. When you have a house that
13 will settle, they put these helical piers, and they
14 take hydraulic machines, track hoes, as he
15 suggested, and skid steer loaders. They screw these
16 into the ground until they get so much pressure
17 where it can hold up the house. Well, these helical
18 piers are like an auger that you screw into the
19 ground, and you screw it down until it gets tight.
20 Well, the helical pier is probably a 3-inch -- so
21 can you imagine a construction equipment trying to
22 balance on a 3-inch pier? The house is on ten
23 piers, so they're going to be trying to put helical
24 piers at every location? It's not even a fathom --
25 feasible to do anything like that. I don't know

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1 where they could even come up with an idea. Maybe
2 just a snowball like the rest of this project is a
3 huge snowball. They said that they want to -- the
4 company has no assets. They don't have no assets,
5 but if there's people fool enough to sign an
6 easement, when they produce all of these easements,
7 then they will have assets that they can sell on the
8 open market to another company, maybe a foreign
9 company, but it's all -- it's no concrete asset,
10 it's just -- everything is paper, and I appreciate
11 you-all coming by all eight counties and for these
12 eight meetings. You showed us that you are
13 Missourians, you want to be shown as the Show-Me
14 State of the things that is going on, and I have not
15 seen anything from Grain Belt Express showing us
16 what we can expect. They say it's affordable
17 electricity. How can it be affordable when it's
18 going to cost twice, maybe ten times more for our
19 electricity in the future? They have not produced
20 any concrete evidence of what our utilities will
21 cost. They have no idea. They will produce it, and
22 they'll produce it as an extreme cost, and they will
23 pass that onto Missourians.

24 So being I'm from Missouri, I want to --
25 I'd like it to be shown that there will be something

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1 for Missourians, but the tax monies won't be nothing
2 compared to the health issues that will be created.
3 This touches my heart because I got some
4 grandchildren that is six generations that will be
5 on the farm. What good will it be to have a farm if
6 you can't raise your children without coming down
7 with cancer or leukemia? That is the greatest
8 concern that everybody in Missouri should have is
9 what health and well being of every Missourian, not
10 the dollar. We can work to get a dollar, we don't
11 have to have it handed out there a tax incentive
12 through a foreign country or whatever the background
13 behind Grain Belt is, it just does not make sense,
14 and I'm sure every one of you commissioners have
15 grandchildren or young neighbors that you admire
16 seeing in the backyard. They would be devastated
17 through the electromagnetic field that this will
18 produce. They say they're going to be building
19 200-foot towers to carry three wires producing --
20 carrying 640,000 volts. Gentleman, I'm from
21 Missouri. They're not going to put just three
22 lines. They might start off there, but they could
23 put up the -- ten times that many lines on these
24 200-foot towers, and then instead of being
25 640,000 volts, it could be in the millions --

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1 345 million volts that the electromagnetic field
2 would not be just 300 meters as the World Health
3 Organization has already come on record saying that
4 children within 300 meters will have a 500 percent
5 higher chance of attracting leukemia. So if you
6 quadruple or whatever in the future that these
7 lines -- these towers could hold, there will not be
8 need for our schools -- tax money for our schools,
9 because we've lost our children. They'd be
10 devastated by cancer and leukemia, and it's not if,
11 it's not when, it's going to be how many are going
12 to be devastated by this disaster.

13 Thank you for listening to me.

14 MR. KENNEY: Thank you Mr. Henke.

15 MR. BUSHMAN: Thank you for all the
16 witnesses tonight.

17 MS. REICHERT: Can I have just a moment,
18 please?

19 MR. BUSHMAN: Yes, ma'am.

20 JULIE REICHART,
21 of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as
22 follows:

23 MR. BUSHMAN: Please state your name and
24 spell your last name for the record.

25 I'm Julie Reichart. The last name is

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1 R-e-i-c-h-a-r-t. I live four miles north of
2 Brunswick.

3 MR. BUSHMAN: Go ahead.

4 MS. REICHERT: We've lived on a farm for
5 32 years. I'm sorry, I'm going to cry, I know that.
6 I've raised four children, and, currently, none of
7 the children live on the farm with me and my husband
8 because they've gone off -- you know, careers,
9 college, but every time they come home, Mom, we want
10 to come home to the farm, we need to get back to our
11 roots, and when they come home, we sit outside, and
12 that's all we do is look, and it's 80 acres, it's
13 not a lot, but there's no poles that obstruct our
14 view. We can look at the sky and we can enjoy life,
15 and if they come through and put these huge power
16 lines in there, there's no view anymore, it's gone.
17 And I -- they're thinking about putting a pole a
18 thousand foot from my back door, which is not good.
19 Not good for my grandchildren, and I'm just telling
20 you that you really need to consider what we're
21 going to do to the farmlands if they come through
22 and put all these poles in there, when we're not
23 going to get any benefit at all. And I'm really
24 sorry, I don't mean to cry. And someone said, Well,
25 it's farmers -- they need to make a profit. Well,

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1 you know, they're not stupid. I was raised on a
2 farm, I swore I'd never marry a farmer and I did,
3 but they're not stupid people. They know they have
4 to make a profit, but, usually, that's because the
5 wife goes off the farm and we also raise money,
6 bring it home so we can stay on the farm. Farmers
7 love to farm. They don't farm it just because it's
8 a great industry, they farm it because they love the
9 land. My husband loves the land. He no-tills. He
10 preserves the land. He donates I don't know how
11 many hours of his time to help other farmers,
12 because he loves land. How's he going to tell a
13 farmer, Just come back out and look at my back 40,
14 oh, ignore the big towers, and we can't farm near
15 the towers, because, you know, there's all the
16 electricity out there, and we can't put the cows
17 back there, we have to move them on to rented land.
18 You know, farmers are smart, they know this isn't
19 good, and I think you as commissioners know this is
20 not going to be a good thing.

21 So thank you for time, thank you for what
22 you do, I do appreciate it.

23 MR. BUSHMAN: Thank you, ma'am.

24 MR. KENNEY: So I think we're finished,
25 and let me just make some closing remarks before we

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1 go. This is my eighth of the local public hearings,
2 and I am honored and privileged to have had the
3 opportunity to attend all eight of these hearings.
4 I want to thank all you for attending and
5 participating in the process.

6 There was a comment made earlier about how
7 much of the local public hearings and the testimony
8 of these, how much weight do we give them, and the
9 comment was made that there was not much, and I want
10 to refute that statement. I can't quantify how much
11 weight we give to any particular piece of evidence,
12 and there will be an evidentiary hearing in
13 November, but I hope that we've demonstrated by our
14 presence here that we value all of the public
15 comment that we have received at each of these
16 eight, and I will assure you that -- and I think I
17 speak for my fellow commissioners that we very much
18 value and appreciate the time that you've taken to
19 provide testimony and comment, both pro and con, and
20 I can say that I have learned a tremendous amount at
21 each of those eight local public hearings. There is
22 value in these, we value your testimony and the time
23 that you've taken to be here and appreciate it, so I
24 just wanted to be sure to emphasize that fact.

25 The hearing in this matter will be -- it's

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1 scheduled for several days in November. November
2 10th, the 12th through the 14th and the 21st, in
3 Jefferson City in the governor's office building,
4 and you've all demonstrated your willingness to
5 travel the state, and so feel free to come join us
6 in Jefferson city, if you're inclined to do that.
7 If not, you can watch the hearings streaming live on
8 the Internet, www.psc.mo.gov. The decision will be
9 rendered shortly after, or sometime after the
10 evidentiary hearing.

11 So again, thank you for taking the time to
12 be here, we appreciate it. Have a safe trip home.

13 (The hearing concluded at 8:49 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lisa D. Ballalatak, a Notary Public for the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that I appeared at the time and place first hereinbefore set forth, that I took down in shorthand the entire proceedings had at said time and place, and that the foregoing constitutes a true, correct, and complete transcript of my said shorthand notes.

Witness my hand and seal this 17th day of September, 2014

Lisa D. Ballalatak
Notary Public
State of Missouri

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[& - address]

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