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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing
December 13, 2016
Faucett, Missouri
Mid Buchanan High School
Volume VII

In The Matter Of The)
Application Of Grain Belt)
Express Clean Line LLC For A)
Certificate Of Convenience And)
Necessity Authorizing It To)
Construct, Own, Operate,)
Control, Manage And Maintain A) File No. EA-2015-0358
High Voltage, Direct Current)
Transmission Line And An)
Associated Converter Station)
Providing An Interconnection On)
The Maywood-Montgomery 345kv)
Transmission Line)

MICHAEL BUSHMANN, Presiding
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

DANIEL Y. HALL, Chairman,
MAIDA J. COLEMAN,
WILLIAM P. KENNEY,
COMMISSIONERS

REPORTED BY: Albert Narvaez

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PROCEEDINGS

(Hearing commenced at 6:04 p.m.)

JUDGE BUSHMANN: Let's go on the record.

Good afternoon. It's December 13, 2016.

We are in Faucett, Missouri. Missouri Public Service Commission has set this time for a local public hearing in the case captioned as In the Matter of the Application of Grain Belt Express Clean Line, LLC, for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity Authorizing it to 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 345kV Transmission Line. The File Number is EA-2016-0358.

My name is Michael Bushmann and I'm the regulatory law judge that will be presiding over this hearing this evening. With me is Chairman Daniel Hall and Commissioner Bo Kenney and Commissioner Maida Coleman.

Mr. Chairman, did you want to make an opening remark?

CHAIRMAN HALL: Good evening. I just want to say in advance, thank you very much for being here and thank you for providing testimony to support the matter.

1 What you say will be transcribed and
2 will be part of the record in this case. Those two
3 Commissioners who are not here tonight will have access
4 to that transcript so rest assured that your testimony
5 will be considered by all five Commissioners.

6 This is a very important part of the
7 process. We take it very seriously and we look forward
8 to hearing your testimony. Thank you.

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Let's have counsel make
10 their entry of appearance. For Grain Belt Express
11 Clean Line, LLC.

12 MR. HARDEN: Joshua Harden.

13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: For commission staff?

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams.

15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: For Office of Public
16 Counsel.

17 MS. SHEMWELL: Good evening. My name is
18 Lera Shemwell and I represent the Office of Public
19 Counsel and the public in this case. Our office has an
20 eminent domain ombudsman and his name is Fred Kratky,
21 and I have a bunch of cards. If any of you would like
22 to consult with him I'll just leave the cards up here.
23 And I'll leave some in the back on the table for the
24 people from the Commission. It's a pleasure to be
25 here.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Show Me Concerned
2 Landowners?

3 MR. LINTON: David Linton.

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And if counsel for any
5 other intervenors are present here today, please make
6 your entry of appearance now. I do not see any.

7 I'd like to remind everybody to take
8 this time to please silence their cell phones so there
9 is no disruptions during the testimony. And before
10 taking any testimony, I want to provide you with some
11 information about why the Commission is holding this
12 public hearing.

13 The Commission is already scheduled an
14 evidentiary hearing for March of next year to take
15 evidence regarding Grain Belt Express's application.
16 But it's also scheduled hearings in each of the
17 counties that are effected by the proposed transmission
18 line to give the members of the public a chance to
19 state their support or their opposition to the project.
20 And that's the purpose of today's hearing.

21 For those who would like to provide
22 testimony today, I'm going to call the names listed on
23 the sign-up sheet. And when I call your name, please
24 come forward to this podium. I'll put you under oath
25 and ask you to state your name and where you live. And

1 then you can offer your comments to the Commission.

2 The Commission has established some
3 ground rules for this hearing to try and give everybody
4 a chance to testify within a reasonable period of time.
5 You can only testify at one hearing. So if you do
6 testify at a hearing and your name appears on the
7 sign-up sheet at a later hearing, you won't be called
8 to testify again.

9 Your testimony is limited to five
10 minutes per person. I have a timer next to me that
11 will help you keep track of your time. And give a
12 warning when your time is up. If you haven't finished
13 your comments before the time expires you can submit
14 all of your comments in writing or by calling the
15 Commission. And the Commission staff is available at a
16 table over by the entrance and they can give you
17 information on how to do that. You can't donate your
18 time to another witness who has run out of time. The
19 Commissioners won't be able to answer any questions
20 today because they have to remain impartial until after
21 the evidence is presented at the evidentiary hearing.
22 If you do have questions, please direct those to
23 Commission staff or representative company personnel.

24 My final request is to please be polite
25 and courteous to everyone who testifies tonight and

1 treat them as you would like them to treat you.

2 The first name I have is Jim Sandlin. Mr.
3 Sandlin, could you come forward please.

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
6 and spell your last name.

7 MR. SANDLIN: Jim Sandlin,
8 S-a-n-d-l-i-n.

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live,
10 sir?

11 MR. SANDLIN: Faucett, Missouri.

12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

13 MR. SANDLIN: I want to first say thank
14 you for allowing these meetings and taking time out of
15 your busy lives to bring this all across the state. We
16 really appreciate it. I live in the southern part of
17 the county pretty near Faucett. We're a high growth
18 area for the county with lots of housing going up
19 because we are close to KCI, Kansas City, Platt City
20 and St. Joe. The farm I live on has 90 acres that will
21 be split lengthwise. The line will go through the
22 entire length of it so it will be about 20 acres of
23 each side of the line for the length of 90 acres. That
24 will kill any future growth. It will be over.

25 In 2006 Missouri eminent domain law was

1 overhauled and they said that you couldn't use eminent
2 domain just because it generates tax dollars. That
3 can't be a reason for a project. If that was allowed
4 in every house in town, it would be worth more as a
5 Wal-Mart then it would be a business. And property
6 rights set us apart from third-world countries.
7 Eminent domain is not to be used for private gain.

8 And the counties that are quick to jump
9 on the Grain Belt train for tax revenue promises, that
10 takes away our property rights. Shame on them. The
11 line will pass about a million homes or more to get to
12 Indiana. Why is that? We all use electricity all the
13 way across Kansas, Illinois, Missouri. Just because
14 Indiana has higher rates on that grid. It's all about
15 money.

16 And this line will carry a different
17 source of electrify as far as coal generated or wind
18 generated and federal law prohibits them to be just
19 green only, they can't do it.

20 And letters of intent, you know, they
21 don't mean a whole lot. A whole lot of people signed
22 mortgages before 2008 and they promised to pay back and
23 then the housing bubble hit. We know how that ended.
24 Promises were made that weren't kept. This line will
25 cross 40 acres on my place that's sowed in Indian and

1 Big Blue Stem grass that requires a controlled burn in
2 the spring for management. To burn a 7 plus foot tall
3 grass under a high voltage wire you can get an arching
4 from the line. And it can kill people that's doing the
5 controlled burn. They teach it in burn classes. They
6 teach how to do control burns on prairie grass.

7 This has been a three plus year ordeal
8 for us and it's like, when does this stop. You know,
9 maybe if it went through an Indian reservation that
10 would help. But to me bury it, run it down 36 Highway
11 and let the state get all that great money from that
12 easement. You know, I think we would be happier with
13 it. That driveway is already in place. Thank you.

14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Next
15 witness is Russell Ellis.

16 (Witness sworn.)

17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
18 and spell your last name.

19 MR. ELLIS: Russell Ellis. Agency,
20 Missouri.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: How do you spell that
22 last name?

23 MR. ELLIS: E-l-l-i-s.

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

25 MR. ELLIS: Again, thank you. And I'll

1 reiterate what Jim said for being here tonight and
2 listening to our testimony. You know, just really four
3 short points that I want to bring up. One is that --
4 I'm in business and I spend a lot of time with
5 right-of-way and easements. And granting eminent
6 domain to a private entity, I believe, is a very
7 slippery slope to travel down. Sets a precedence that
8 I think is very dangerous.

9 You know, also I spent some time
10 thinking of myself as an engineer and I don't believe
11 that a DC transmission line of this magnitude has ever
12 been run before. It will go through the south end of
13 my property and I'm not really awful excited about
14 having what I call an experimental DC transmission line
15 running through the back of my property. My
16 wife and I we own 40 acres and on the south end of
17 property would be affected by this with 150 foot
18 stretch that runs about a quarter of a mile. I think
19 in previous testimony there's been some
20 environmentalist maybe claims about some of us
21 landowners need to suck it up so we can contribute to a
22 green environment and all that kind of stuff. I guess
23 to those people I would like to say I'd be willing to
24 sell you my property at fair market value right now and
25 then let you see -- if this passes, you know, let them

1 see how that investment turns out for them. As far as
2 trying to sell that property later on.

3 I think also, too, you know, I haven't
4 seen a lot of literature from Clean Line. Haven't seen
5 anything that really proves or gives any evidence of
6 some of the tax claims and some of the other things
7 that they say. You know, I'm an arithmetic major, too,
8 and I'm a calculation kind of guy and I don't see a
9 whole lot of calculations, I just see numbers down
10 there.

11 Obviously, you can tell that I am
12 opposed to this. I echo Jim's statement. It's a third
13 time for this rodeo and hopefully we get bucked off --
14 or they get bucked off and we don't have to ride it
15 again. Thank you again for your time.

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. John Wolfe.

17 (Witness sworn.)

18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
19 and spell your last name.

20 MR. WOLFE: John Wolfe, W-o-l-f-e.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

22 MR. WOLFE: Faucett, Missouri.

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

24 MR. WOLFE: I have a farm in the river
25 bottom around St. Joe and it's coming through there.

1 And this fellow said that he had the right to come
2 through there and I said, you don't, we don't want your
3 lines on our property. I think he kind of talked
4 around and said, well, it's a done deal, you won't have
5 no choice.

6 So in the meantime I've heard that you
7 still have the right-of-way and I don't know how he
8 could get it. He said, I've signed papers. I said,
9 there would be easement on it, but I wouldn't keep --
10 off of it because you can walk on there and hunt if you
11 wanted to, but we don't want any power lines. There
12 would be three lines going across the farm or three
13 poles to lease it with a three quarter mile long. He
14 said they would put one every quarter mile or something
15 like that. The same guy told me that he would dodge
16 off of it a half mile south and get on that road and
17 then they'd come along half and jump back in. Anybody
18 knows if you hit a damn line like that -- if you don't
19 travel a half mile straight along. So he had them say
20 that to. So that's all I'm saying.

21 I didn't give them a right-of-way and
22 nothing. If people want ot go in on the farm and hunt
23 I wouldn't care. Have no right to put poles on the
24 place. And that guy said, well, it's a done deal. We
25 go down and go around it. You don't stretch a wire

1 like that in our country. Thank you all for coming.

2 Like you said, we've been to three
3 meetings and it's our time and your guys time and we
4 don't get paid. I'm sure some here behind this gets
5 paid to come up here tonight and fight this. They keep
6 coming back and coming back to stop this. It's about
7 time it stopped. Thank you.

8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Ralph
9 Sandlin.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
12 and spell your last name.

13 MR. SANDLIN: My name is Ralph Sandlin,
14 S-a-n-d-l-i-n.

15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

16 MR. SANDLIN: Faucett, Missouri.

17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

18 MR. SANDLIN: First, I would like to
19 thank the Commission for coming today and listening to
20 our -- giving us an opportunity to speak. We've
21 probably beat to death between the last hearings and
22 this hearings but there's a lot at stake like loss of
23 property value, loss of trees, the easement and the
24 health issues.

25 I'd like to just bring up a couple of

1 other points that may not have been covered closely,
2 but one of them is letters of intent. I hope the
3 Commission will only look at hard letters. When they
4 talk utilities, A, B, C, I want to see X-amount of
5 kilowatts, so much per watt and so many years. That
6 type of contract. Something that's binding.

7 Same way with labor companies. They
8 know how many miles they are going to cross and they
9 should see that Missouri wire company ABC is providing
10 X-amount of wire for that contract, it's a signed deal.
11 Insulators, towers all that stuff. The things is their
12 intent that we will give you a chance to bid on it.
13 That doesn't mean anything. That means that they're
14 going to have to bid cheaper then the labor down south
15 were the company is. Cheaper than the overseas makers
16 of wires and insulators and towers.

17 Another thing of concern is -- I don't
18 know if many people talk about it -- I've got to talk
19 with my hands here. Iowa has got a line, Arkansas has
20 got a line and they got it stopped. They still are
21 working the problem, but I'm just wondering if they're
22 just throwing out a bunch of fishing lines and whoever
23 bits, whichever state bits first. So the price will
24 come down if Iowa stops it and connect it to our
25 easement and having it being the bigger line of two

1 lines or even petition for a line down south. And I'm
2 sure we can take them to court and they would deny that
3 and they could take it to court and said we're the
4 utility company here and we're providing all this
5 electricity and all these jobs and providing safely to
6 southern Missouri.

7 So I just hope that we're not the one --
8 I'm just thinking, it would be cheaper to run many
9 lines across four states versus one across many states
10 with many lines. The last thing is the power or
11 the PFC as far as -- like when you see articles in the
12 paper, KCP&L applied for a \$5 increase in the rates and
13 then they get awarded 50 cents. I would think that we
14 would have that same power over this company if they're
15 going to become a utility company for Missouri.

16 Now what about the stuff that gets sold
17 to the East Coast? It's high demand because they are
18 under pressure for getting green energy from keeping to
19 get fined. So it would be one of those things where
20 they come to my coop and say, okay, we got your 8 cents
21 a kilowatt energy, have you got your million dollar
22 section on? Oh, no, we can't afford that. We'll
23 that's okay, we'll just move it out and send it all to
24 the East Coast at 15 cents a kilowatt.

25 So I'm worried about the loop holes as

1 far as what's been promised here and getting this done.
2 Lucky I do have the solution. And the solution is,
3 we've got easements already across the state and we've
4 got Highway 36 that goes straight as an arrow. We got
5 I-70. We got other highways and railways. There's no
6 reason to build a brand new easement all the way across
7 the state.

8 So the proposal would be is to bury the
9 thing across the line. Everybody would be happy. The
10 state could get all the revenue. The people that want
11 to get green energy to the East Coast will get the
12 green energy there, which I support. But they will
13 also not lose the trees. Three miles from here where
14 it crosses the Platt River you can go there and you can
15 see that it's all old growth hardwood, oaks, walnuts.
16 And they'll all be chopped down just across that one
17 river.

18 So the -- bury part will help tourism
19 and I'm sure you can be allowed to push back and it
20 can't be done. But we see lines going from Iceland to
21 the UK, obviously, under the ocean. Going from Spain
22 to Algeria. You got the longest line now that's
23 underground right now is going from Norway to the
24 Netherlands which is over 250 miles which is shorter
25 than the distance across Missouri.

1 Now granted there are quite a bit of
2 temperature issues, but if you dig deep enough you get
3 warm lines with less voltage where you have less
4 temperature which is part of it. But the state owns
5 that easement. And I would hope that -- how much does
6 it cost to go across and then they don't have to worry
7 about being a utility company or being controlled by
8 you and how you can dictate to them to what they're
9 going to do. They can get all that green energy to the
10 East Coast and make their profit anyway. And we would
11 have a nice place for tourism. Thank you very much
12 again. I appreciate your time.

13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Cynthia Sandlin.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
16 and spell your last name.

17 MS. SANDLIN: My name is Cynthia
18 Sandlin, S-a-n-d-l-i-n.

19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

20 MS. SANDLIN: Faucett, Missouri.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

22 MS. SANDLIN: I'd like to show a
23 different view. My view. When my husband and I moved
24 to Missouri a few years ago, I told him I wanted to be
25 near my brother-in-law, Jim Sandlin, out in the country

1 so I'd have this beautiful view out my front door. I
2 could sit on my porch with this beautiful view while I
3 drink my coffee in the morning or in the evenings.

4 Now my beautiful view is going to be
5 towers. Towers right in front of my house. I can't
6 get paid a dime because it's not on my property, it's
7 on my brother-in-law's property. So I lose my whole
8 view, the whole reason that we built our home right
9 there with such love is going to be ruined. I can't
10 sell that home and rebuild it somewhere else because
11 nobody else's is going to want to have that view of
12 those towers. It's mine and mine alone. So that's one
13 thing that I get to think about. There's no recompense
14 for somebody unless your property is having the tower
15 put on it. And so far I haven't really heard
16 that address that other people are still going to be
17 losing. I've done a lot of research and there's -- all
18 the realtors, all but two that I have looked up so far
19 have said, yes, and in fact, the higher value your home
20 is the more you're going to lose in your property
21 value. That's not right.

22 These towers -- I don't know what the
23 legal distance is but if they go where they say they're
24 going then they'll be less than \$400 -- I'm sorry, 400
25 feet from my front door. That's pretty close. I'm not

1 sure I can handle that.

2 My other point is, they've been denied
3 twice and now they've come back for a third time and
4 I'm not sure how they keep doing this if they just
5 change how they say it or bring out some other
6 different word that means something basically the same
7 as the other two times. But they're allowed to keep on
8 bringing it back. How many times do you all get to
9 tell them no before they can't come back again?
10 We live with this daily. It's just a threat hanging
11 over our heads and that's not right. I'd like to ask
12 anybody with Clean Line if they would like to buy my
13 house for the value today knowing that a tower is going
14 to be put there. Thank you very much. I appreciate
15 the opportunity to speak.

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Windy
17 Churchill.

18 (Witness sworn.)

19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
20 and spell your last name.

21 MS. CHURCHILL: Wendy Churchill,
22 C-h-u-r-c-h-i-l-l.

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

24 MS. CHURCHILL: Faucett.

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

1 MS. CHURCHILL: Mr. Chairman and members
2 of the Commission. Thank you for this opportunity to
3 speak and address my concerns regarding Clean Line and
4 their proposed Grain Belt Express High Voltage
5 Transmission Lines.

6 I am here because I do not want these
7 lines going through our properties, our community, our
8 county or our state. Clean Line is seeking to take our
9 properties against our will. They are privately owned
10 company wanting to take on the utility status in order
11 to get eminent domain. They are not a state or
12 municipality. They're not an authorized corporation
13 exercising under the public character. They just want
14 something that we have and demanding that we give it to
15 them.

16 If granted public utility status and
17 eminent domain they put the corridor to other uses not
18 specified in the initial eminent domain action.

19 I want to stress this again mainly
20 because I question the ethical ability for our state to
21 grant permission for a private company who wants our
22 land against our will for private gain. That they can
23 do anything they want with once the eminent domain is
24 granted. They use a catchy name, Clean Line. It
25 reflects what the company wants everyone to believe.

1 Clean energy and who in their right mind can be against
2 clean energy. You have to be crazy not to want clean
3 energy, right? That makes us the bad guys as
4 landowners to try and stop it. And it pits landowners
5 against environmentalist.

6 Secondly, is the money. Among other non
7 substantiated lures are the tax revenues. So I ask,
8 are some people's rights going to stripped from them in
9 order for the county or the state to receive money.
10 Not only will the proposed landowners lose their
11 property, but the adjacent properties will dramatically
12 lose their value. Namely is my family. The proposed
13 power line would pass within 30 yards of my parents'
14 home. No one has addressed the fact that their home
15 may be inhabitable and that they would receive nothing.
16 Nothing. Because the easement is against their
17 property and not on it.

18 The transmission line would transect
19 property owned by our family business, and why is it
20 that my family's farm business is not as important as
21 this Texas based, foreign backed, non fully funded,
22 under investigated, non contract bearing corporation.
23 It's thievery and it's robbery and it's taking what
24 doesn't belong to you because you're bigger and
25 wealthier and the people of Missouri have already

1 spoken. This proposal has been defeated and we should
2 not be subjected to legal bullying again.

3 Please do not grant the company the
4 ability to take from Missouri residents and please not
5 set a precedence for other private companies to gain
6 eminent domain status to take unlawfully from our
7 citizens. Thank you for hearing my concerns.

8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Okay. The
9 next witness is Joe Spease.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
12 and spell your last name.

13 MR. SPEASE: Joe Spease, S-p-e-a-s-e.

14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?

15 MR. SPEASE: Overland Park, Kansas.

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

17 MR. SPEASE: I'm here to talk about the
18 importance of this project for the economy. And I want
19 to share some information about me related to rates,
20 prices and things that are going on in the energy
21 industry that shed a little light on this.

22 There's a new coal plant being built in
23 Mississippi called the Kemper Plant. It's built as a
24 clean coal plant because it was going to be cleaner.
25 It would still be plenty filthy. It's a 500 megawatt

1 plant that will go into operation at the beginning of
2 2017, early 2017.

3 That 500 megawatt plant is going to cost
4 over \$7 billion. Now, you can look at a wind project
5 of 500 megawatts that costs less than a billion
6 dollars. You can combine that wind project with the
7 technology like compressed energy storage that will
8 turn that wind power into base-load power and add only
9 \$400 million to the capital cost.

10 So now you have a 500 megawatt base-load
11 wind compressed air plant for 1.4 billion compared to a
12 new coal plant at 7 billion.

13 The reason that we need projects like
14 this is that we can no longer afford coal power. It's
15 just too expensive. There's a new phenomena going on
16 in the energy industry with corporate PPAs where
17 corporations are looking for projects like this so they
18 will have access to the cheapest power on the grid.
19 And in a survey of all the companies that are buying
20 these corporate PPAs they were asked the reason for
21 that purchase and it was because of the cost.

22 The cost of wind power from plains
23 states is cheaper than the wholesale power available on
24 the grid. And every single one of these company CEOs
25 told the -- their legislatures that this is the exact

1 type of project that we need to boost the economy of
2 the United States. To create jobs. To lower
3 electricity rates. And all the other benefits are in
4 addition to that.

5 So I'm going to urge you to support this
6 project and then reap the benefits that come along with
7 it. It's important for the future of this country.
8 Thank you.

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. If there
10 are any people standing at the entrance and would like
11 to sit there are some sits here if you would like to
12 have a seat and not stand. Next witness is Royce Ann
13 Mather.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
16 and spell your last name.

17 MS. MATHER: My name is Royce Ann
18 Mather, M-a-t-h-e-r.

19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

20 MS. MATHER: Overland Park, Kansas.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

22 MR. MATHER: I'm here because I support
23 this project for the jobs that it will create. My
24 husband owns a construction company and he's built
25 projects in Missouri.

1 I support the Clean Line Energy Green
2 Belt Express because this is the type of energy
3 infrastructure project that our companies business
4 leaders are calling for. Recently the CEOs of
5 300 of the largest companies such as Apple, Sprint and
6 Google, signed a letter urging President-Elect Trump to
7 continue the support of energy infrastructure that will
8 allow for the development of our greatest wind
9 resources.

10 The jobs, tax revenue, lower electricity
11 rates are exactly what are needed to boost our economy
12 in the coming decades. To say no to this project would
13 be to ignore the wishes of our best business leaders
14 and the needs of our economy. This project is in the
15 public interest as it will help develop low cost clean
16 energy and create jobs and expand the tax base for
17 decades to come. This project is needed because this
18 low cost energy cannot be accessed without it. Thank
19 you.

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Melissa
21 Free.

22 (Witness sworn.)

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
24 and spell your last name.

25 MS. FREE: Melissa Free, F-r-e-e.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

2 MS. FREE: Agency, Missouri.

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. Please
4 proceed.

5 MS. FREE: Mr. Chairman and members of
6 the Commission. My husband and I represent two out of
7 the 600 landowners who would be severely impacted by
8 the 220 mile path of proposed towers and easements by
9 Grain Belt Express. Missouri private property
10 landowners must be allowed to keep their timberland,
11 their ponds, their crop yields and pastures intact.
12 Let it not be considered for any reason and an
13 unbelievably high 600,000 volts transmitted on even one
14 steel tower would be safe to any children, pets,
15 livestock and wildlife belonging to Missouri private
16 property landowners and their families. Put the health
17 and safety of Missouri citizens first.

18 Consider the extreme tower height that
19 pilots would have to navigate over including life
20 flight, law enforcement, conservation agents,
21 commercial and private. At 151 feet Lady Liberty
22 stands for freedom and democracy. At 200 feet Grain
23 Belt towers and eminent domain stand for tyranny,
24 t-y-r-a-n-n-y. The definition of cruel and oppressive
25 government or rule.

1 Standing next to the tower of tyranny is
2 the tower of oppression defined as cruel or unjust use
3 of power or authority. The definition of property
4 landowners rights is the Bill of Rights. Amendment
5 Number 5, protection of rights to life, liberty and
6 property.

7 Our founding fathers and U.S. veterans
8 fought and died for this freedom. There shall not be
9 any towers of tyranny and oppression built across the
10 great state of Missouri. Amen.

11 Thank you Chairman and members of the
12 Commission for denying again the reapplication of Green
13 Belt Express.

14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Next name
15 is Tim Staelens.

16 (Witness sworn.)

17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
18 and spell your last name.

19 MR. STAELENS: Tim Staelens,
20 S-t-a-e-l-e-n-s.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

22 MR. STAELENS: Columbia, Missouri.

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

24 MR. STAELENS: I know that our state and
25 our country need new sources of renewable energy. To

1 supply this energy is going to require building
2 infrastructures. I'm a supporter of the Grain Belt
3 Express Project.

4 I've worked at Hubbell Power Systems in
5 Centralia, Missouri, for over 30 years. Hubbell Power
6 Systems is a large manufacture of projects that build
7 electric power lines. I'm a product manager of the
8 anchor products. We've been making products for
9 electric line construction for over 100 years in
10 Centralia. Our company will supply transmission
11 hardware and insulators for this project. We are also
12 in discussion to provide products that I work with
13 which are the anchoring products. We have about 700
14 employees in Centralia.

15 This project could potentially bring
16 50-60 new jobs to Hubbell. With about 80 percent of
17 the jobs being in Centralia. These are good jobs.
18 Manufacturing jobs. Operations, customer service and
19 logistics.

20 As a project manager for Hubbell I get
21 to visit electric utilities across the state and
22 throughout the country. I train them on how to use
23 products correctly and safely. One of the best parts
24 of my job is to give customers tours of our plant in
25 Centralia. We are a metal fabricator and we cut and

1 weld steel products. We have large punch press
2 machines that bend metal. When we're finished with the
3 tour customers often say that they deal with paperwork
4 and emails all day but when they actually get to see
5 products being built in the state it makes them feel
6 good. When they leave the plant I always ask -- I
7 always thank them for their business and point out that
8 it's not about the number of the people working in the
9 plant and the offices. Their business provides good
10 jobs for the people in Centralia and other companies
11 that support our business throughout Missouri.

12 The Grain Belt Express will bring
13 benefits to Hubbell employees but it's also going to
14 bring benefits to the City of Centralia. The city has
15 decided to join other Missouri municipalities and
16 purchasing energy off the power line. A low cost wind
17 energy is expected to save Centralia hundreds of
18 thousands of dollars. So I buy my energy from Columbia
19 Water & Light. I don't know where they stand on buying
20 power from the Grain Belt Express, but I know they have
21 a goal to get 30% of their power from renewable
22 resources by 2028.

23 I've contacted the city and asked them
24 to help meet their renewable energy goal by getting
25 power from the Grain Belt Express. So thank you for

1 your time and I encourage you to approve the project.

2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Cynthia
3 Pederson. (Witness sworn.)

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
5 and spell your last name.

6 MS. PEDERSON: My name is Cynthia
7 Pederson, P-e-d-e-r-s-o-n.

8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

9 MS. PEDERSON: I live in Holt County,
10 Missouri.

11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

12 MS. PEDERSON: I want to say that I
13 admire your stamina because this has been a long day
14 already. I'm not sure that I would still be listening,
15 but thank you for doing it.

16 I'm a member of autubon and a lifetime
17 member of the Kansas State Plant Society. I'm a
18 lifetime member of the Missouri Prairie Foundation as
19 well as a number of other environmental groups who have
20 objectives that I can believe in.

21 I'm a former member of the Sierra Club.
22 In fact I worked with the Sierra Club when it protested
23 against coal fire power plants slatted for Holt County
24 some years ago. At that time the regional
25 representative of the Sierra Club who came to speak at

1 my request told me that the club on the national level
2 did not want to project a negative image so in addition
3 to taking a stand against unsustainable coal fire
4 energy the Sierra Club had come out in favor of wind
5 energy.

6 We had this conversation because I was
7 questioning this person about the negative aspects of
8 wind energy like killing birds and bats, sound
9 pollution and health issues, et cetra. My husband and
10 I at that time researched alternative energy and
11 installed the first residential solar power in our coop
12 area. I would like to ask the members of the Sierra
13 Club who are in favor of the Grain Belt Express and who
14 do not live where these transmission lines will scar
15 the land, how many of them have made a personal
16 financial sacrifice and installed similar power in
17 their homes and business especially years ago when the
18 cost was much higher. Um, I thought so.

19 And yet they believe that our farms
20 should be sacrificed for some perceived greater good.
21 I say, put your money where your mouth is and put your
22 brain in gear.

23 Grain Belt Express is all about profit.
24 Federal law requires that these monstrous land scaring
25 lines to carry form or electricity. That means that

1 you, the Sierra Club, the members who protested against
2 the rightly controversial coal fire -- sunflower plant
3 in southwest Kansas are now guilty of rallying to the
4 cause of a private for-profit company who will destroy
5 many farms and lives to transport coal fire power
6 across -- all across Kansas, all across Missouri and
7 into Illinois to ship it east. And, yes, I said,
8 destroyed and I mean it.

9 Our farms is in CRP. In addition to
10 financial support from this federal farm program we
11 have personally spent many hours and thousands of
12 dollars to plant our land in a high quality tall grass
13 prairie restoration. Recently we added acreage to a
14 monarch initiative to help pollinators. This
15 January our farm will receive a rarely given state
16 wildlife habitat award. These projects are just the
17 sort of projects done with commitment to the
18 environment and for our collective sustainable future
19 that Sierra Club members should apply. Yet their sad
20 level of commitment is to drive a few miles, like from
21 Overland Park, to promote the vile use of eminent
22 domain to force us to take a penitence of what our farm
23 is worth. Our farm is a century old family farm that I
24 would not willingly sell to anyone let alone to someone
25 who is financially out to shaft me and my family to

1 make a huge profit transporting unsustainable electric
2 power to else where and in the process harm my prairie
3 tall grass restoration.

4 And like the man said earlier, this
5 restoration has to have controlled burns which is a
6 problem. I urge PFC not to be persuaded by these
7 misguided people who do not have personal stake in this
8 decision but who lather about me doing something for
9 their version of a greater good when I have already
10 done so much and worked so hard and cared so much.

11 Please do not ruin my prairie and not by
12 force. Do not do this for the sake of a private
13 enterprise who use fraud and use eminent domain and for
14 those who sit in cities and think that unneeded and
15 reprehensible transmission lines fit their idea of a
16 greater good for our world. Please, for the
17 sake of my tall grass prairie, my pollinators and other
18 wildlife as well as all the other farms and good folks
19 who would be hurt by this. Please do not grant this
20 application. Thank you for your time and attention.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: The next one looks like
22 Mr. and or Mrs. Stubbs.

23 (Witness sworn.)

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
25 and spell your last name.

1 MS. STUBBS: Anita Westfall-Stubbs,
2 S-t-u-b-b-s.

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

4 MS. STUBBS: And I live in Agency,
5 Missouri.

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

7 MS. STUBBS: And I had not planned on
8 speaking here, but this is going to affect my property
9 which will -- like I've heard from some of the others,
10 affect the view that I have of a beautiful pond with a
11 lot of trees and birds and wildlife that we support and
12 care for and feed.

13 And your power line is going to destroy
14 that. It's going to cut right through it. It's going
15 to take away my view. And it's going to hurt my
16 wildlife and it's going to hurt my property as well as
17 the other people around me and the neighbors. I don't
18 -- I haven't a lot of research on it, but I am apposed
19 to it. Thank you for your time.

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Judge Stubbs.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
23 and spell your last name.

24 MR. STUBBS: Judge Stubbs, S-t-u-b-b-s.

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

1 MR. STUBBS: I would just like to thank
2 you all for the --

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Excuse me, sir.
4 Where do you live first?

5 MR. STUBBS: Bates, Missouri.

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. Please go ahead.

7 MR. STUBBS: I would like to thank you
8 all for making sure that the Overland Park people and
9 the Columbia got the mail to come up. I never really
10 have seen the letter. Thank you for that. And I want
11 to thank the guy from Columbia who's doing so good in
12 his business so he can donate more to Missouri or
13 Columbia college.

14 When I moved up here 19 years ago from
15 another county. Grew up raised and born there. I was
16 driving up around Olive Creek Road and I saw this
17 little place of 20 acres and I thought, okay, I like
18 it, it's nice and beautiful. There were trees and
19 pond. I just looked at it. It has woods on both
20 sides. And didn't know anybody up there. I have some
21 kin folks up the road. So I bought. I bought it about
22 11 o'clock at night.

23 Nobody knows what this is going to do.
24 I took a young one a few years ago and I took him back
25 there and I said, you don't know what it's going to do

1 to the animals, livestock. I said, my neighbors have
2 really high priced horses and you have no idea what it
3 will do to them. I don't think anybody in here will
4 know if it goes in what it's going to do to people 50
5 or 60 years down the road. We don't know that.

6 I know you got one up here somewhere up
7 north. But it's going to wipe out all my green ash
8 trees. And I have a good population of redheaded
9 woodpeckers which you don't hardly see around anymore.
10 I really hate that because I'm a conservationist. I
11 spend enough on bird feed and deer feed and wildlife
12 feed to support a small family.

13 I worked for 35 years and I farmed for
14 30 some odd years in Platt County. You just get tired
15 of seeing all this stuff. I'm not city. I was born
16 and raised in the country. And you get sick and tired
17 of seeing all these damn lines running up, around and
18 everywhere.

19 You know, this kid even told me that,
20 yeah, you'll hear some popping and cracking if the
21 moisture is there. The moisture is going to be there,
22 that's why there's a 3 acre pond down there.

23 I don't understand why you can't just
24 run it underneath the ground. We run everything
25 underneath the ground. They run electricity from the

1 line poles now to new homes underneath the ground.
2 That's got to be at least what 4/40. It comes into the
3 house. There's no reason why they can't be run in the
4 ground. They probably never tried it.

5 I think the main thing is, is people
6 like -- who you all represent that want that big dollar
7 that are destroying the country. You take the urban
8 and making it into the city. We're getting away from
9 it. Your hanging poles here and putting poles there.
10 I know what it looks like at Camden Point where they
11 went through and put over in Smithville, it's terrible
12 looking.

13 And that's what's going to happen out
14 there. And out of my 20 acres you're going to take 5.
15 It's going to line on the southside clear down to the
16 pond. Right down to the pond.

17 And you know I personally don't
18 understand why we're supplying energy to the people out
19 in Illinois and Indiana and all the way out there. I
20 don't care where it's going, you know. We're getting
21 ours across from Kansas. My stepson has built and
22 rebuilt the two plants over there. It's just a thing
23 -- it's a crazy thing with people.

24 My house will not be near worth what it
25 is today. And you're sitting there looking down at the

1 floor with a smug look on your face and you don't hear
2 a thing I'm saying and I understand it. We are country
3 people and we want to stay that way. And give us a
4 chance.

5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. David
6 Lanning.

7 (Witness sworn.)

8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
9 and spell your last name.

10 MR. LANNING: David Lanning,
11 L-a-n-n-i-n-g.

12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

13 MR. LANNING: Latan, Missouri.

14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

15 MS. LANNING: Well, I've heard a number
16 of bad points been brought up about the impact of high
17 voltage DC power lines and making a path across our
18 United States. There are several facts we do not know
19 about high voltage DC power as this will be a first, an
20 experiment if you may. We do not know the dangers of
21 this current and how it will affect our children and
22 our grand children or livestock or pigs. We know
23 nothing about this, yet we are expected to give up our
24 property rights and take a chance that it will may or
25 may not be okay.

1 We do know because it's a proven fact
2 that our property values will diminish. I will not
3 have to set my TV reception. The value of my home will
4 be slashed drastically as I will have these power lines
5 literally in my backyard. It goes right through the
6 middle of my backyard.

7 So far I have heard absolutely nothing
8 positive about this venture except a handful of rich
9 will become a little richer. When will this end? When
10 will property owners of control of their own property?
11 When will the rich and powerful not be allowed to
12 destroy the poor man's dream of a beautiful serene
13 countryside that they and their ancestors have worked
14 to hard to obtain? Thank you.

15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Gary House.

16 (Witness sworn.)

17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
18 and spell your last name.

19 MR. HOUSE: Gary House, H-o-u-s-e.

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

21 MR. HOUSE: Gower, Missouri, Clinton
22 County.

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

24 MR. HOUSE: Mr. Chairman and members of
25 the board, thank you for giving me the opportunity to

1 speak tonight. Grain Belt Express has proposed to
2 build high voltage power transmission line through
3 Clinton County which is not wanted and not needed.

4 Grain Belt Express is not a utility
5 company, and should not be granted eminent domain for
6 the approximately 200 foot wide driveway for the
7 proposed power line. Grain Belt Express is at least
8 40% foreign owned and could be sold completely to
9 foreign countries.

10 We do not want an approximately 200 foot
11 wide strip of land owned by a foreign country to run
12 across the beautiful state of Missouri. Grain Belt
13 Express, a privately owned company, if granted eminent
14 domain then any private company could buy a generator
15 and say they were a utility company and be granted
16 eminent domain and then condemn the property and build
17 a high voltage power line through your front yard.

18 Power for this proposed -- wait. Power
19 for this proposed high voltage line is being produced
20 in Kansas and then shipped to Indiana. If they need
21 more power there then they should produce their own.

22 And I worked for St. Joe Light & Power
23 which was later bought by Kansas City Power & Light.
24 For almost 40 years, 25 years of that was in the
25 control room and we -- Kansas City Power & Light was

1 buying power, wind generated power. And then in the
2 control room we had to have coal and gas fired turbines
3 running at all times that they were buying from the
4 wind companies because they were so unreliable. If
5 wind speed would pick up then they would generate more
6 and we would have to cut our plant down. If the wind
7 changed they would go down completely until the towers
8 readjusted in the direction that the wind was blowing
9 and we would have to pick our plant up to maximum the
10 faster we could to carry the load that they lost from
11 wind generation.

12 I just want to stress that it's
13 unreliable and it has to have coal, gas or diesel fired
14 backup available for it to be used when it no longer
15 produces electricity. Thank you for your time.

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Next
17 witness is
18 James Stanton.

19 (Witness sworn.)

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
21 and spell your last name.

22 MR. STANTON: James Stanton,
23 S-t-a-n-t-o-n.

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. Where do you
25 live?

1 MR. STANTON: Agency, Missouri.

2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

3 MR. STANTON: All I've really got to say
4 is the people that's been for it that spoke tonight
5 don't have to worry about their land getting taken away
6 or walking out there back door every day and seeing it
7 30, 40 or 100 yards away from their house.

8 I don't know how many times this is
9 going to come up. You are a public service commission
10 and I would say, listen to the public again and end
11 this finally because this is getting ridiculous.
12 That's all I've got. Thank you for your time.

13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Jeanna Drowns-Avila.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
16 and spell your last name.

17 MS. DROWNS-AVILA: Jeanna Drowns Avila,
18 D-r-o-w-n-s, A-v-i-l-a.

19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

20 MS. DROWNS-AVILA: St. Joseph, Missouri.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

22 MS. DROWNS-AVILA: My original attempt
23 was to talk to you about the lose of property of value
24 that happens along these lines. But you guys have
25 heard several testimonies about that already.

1 I want to address something that Ms.
2 Mathes had brought up earlier. She talked about the
3 fact that this will bring jobs to this area. I want to
4 remind you that those jobs are temporary. Those are
5 not permanent jobs. They come at what price? What
6 about the farmers that you are putting out of work?
7 Farmers who have been in this business for their entire
8 lives. For generations prior to them. They will lose
9 that ability to farm that land and the way they do
10 today.

11 I'm not sure how many of you have driven
12 a combine or stood next to a combine. Imagine trying
13 to maneuver a combine around one of these towers. And
14 then I ask you, what if they accidentally damage one of
15 these towers? Whose cost does that refer to? Is it to
16 the landowner? And what would that do to that
17 landowner? How bankrupt would they become to have to
18 repair that tower?

19 You heard about aerial crop sprays,
20 something that's done quite often in this area. You
21 are impacting the ability of these farmers to continue
22 the life that they have lived. The life that many of
23 them have been handed down from generation to
24 generation.

25 I don't live directly in this area. I

1 do spend every weekend here though right on a small
2 farm that will be directly impacted with multiple
3 towers.

4 I have two daughters who are 12 years
5 old and they wake me up before I do on Saturday
6 mornings because what do they get to do, they get to
7 come and get to feed cows every single weekend. They
8 look forward to that. It teaches them values that we
9 cannot teach in a school system. We cannot teach
10 always at home because it teaches them what hard work
11 does. And what working hard for something you love and
12 respect can do for you as a person.

13 If this farm is impacted by these towers
14 my children lose out. The children who had the rights
15 to gain from this property from their grand parents
16 lose that ability to move forward in what we use as
17 farmland in this country. Thank you for letting me
18 speak. I do appreciate that.

19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Tim
20 Johannes.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
23 and spell your last name.

24 MR. JOHANNES: Tim Johannes,
25 J-o-h-a-n-n-e-s.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

2 MR. JOHANNES: I live in Grandview,
3 Missouri.

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

5 MR. JOHANNES: I live in Grandview and I
6 work in North Kansas City. I work for a firm called
7 Shafer, Kline & Warren otherwise known as SKW. We have
8 offices in three cities in Missouri, Macon, Columbia
9 and North Kansas City. It's a firm of about 200
10 people. And we have worked on -- and I specifically
11 have worked on many projects for long transmission
12 lines and pipelines. Oil and gas pipelines throughout
13 Missouri and across the United States.

14 I'm here in support of this project and
15 I'd like to list a few of the reasons why. This
16 project is a private capital venture. They are not
17 asking the state of Missouri or its citizens to pony up
18 and pay for this line. I understand that there is
19 economic benefit in this project. Not only for the
20 people who are going to build it, but for the cities
21 and communities that are going to use the power.

22 It's estimated that it's going to be about \$10
23 million in savings for the 35 groups that have already
24 signed up for this. There are many more that are
25 looking to sign up and are waiting to see what happens

1 with the Public Service Commission.

2 It's also estimated that they will
3 generate over \$7 million in taxes that will benefit our
4 schools. I just finished watching the elections go by
5 and we saw the opportunity to pass increase taxes on
6 cigarettes, you name it, on different things and I saw
7 how the people looked at that. That's more money out
8 of their pocket and a lot of people are tired of paying
9 taxes. And I understand that. This is an
10 opportunity to gain from this project and benefit
11 everybody. Low cost clean energy is important to the
12 state of Missouri if we're going to continue to have
13 companies like General Motors and other large
14 manufacturing companies stay in Missouri or come to
15 Missouri. It will be kind of an incentive if we have
16 the opportunity for low cost and clean fuel for them to
17 be here. It's a key component of why companies
18 relocate. With that said, I just want to thank you for
19 the opportunity to speak to you and I hope this goes
20 forward.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Greg Logan.

22 (Witness sworn.)

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
24 and spell your last name.

25 MR. LOGAN: My name is Greg Logan,

1 L-o-g-a-n.

2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

3 MR. LOGAN: In St. Joseph.

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

5 MR. LOGAN: I rise today to speak in
6 favor of this project. There are three main reasons.
7 One is the infrastructure. The county needs new
8 infrastructure because the infrastructure we currently
9 have is collapsing around us as far as the electrical
10 grid and stuff goes.

11 Another is the environmental concerns.
12 I think that clean energy is very important and it's
13 part of the whole answer. We're still not going to be
14 able to get rid of all the coal and the nuclear and
15 anything else that goes with it, but this is a very
16 important part of the production.

17 The third one is jobs. I believe in
18 Cameron today a gentleman from PAR Electric said that
19 this project would contain 10 million man hours worth
20 of hours, I believe that's what he said. That is a lot
21 of hours for people who build these lines.

22 The young lady just mentioned that these
23 were temporary jobs. I was a construction electrician
24 and every job I ever was on was a temporary job. We
25 knew it had a beginning and we knew it had an end. But

1 that's how we make our living.

2 Another issue that was spoken on at
3 Cameron today. A gentleman brought up the issue of
4 these companies that were going to do this were coming
5 from outside the state of Missouri. And he used the
6 example of the wind turbines that were built at the
7 Osborn Project, he said all of those were from out of
8 town. Although the employers may have been from out of
9 town, the vast majority of the workers that were
10 employed on that project were from northwest Missouri,
11 whether they be laborers, iron workers, electricians,
12 linemen, ground -- whatever. Thank you for your time.
13 Like I said, I do rise in favor of this project.

14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Jean Ann
15 Pollard.

16 (Witness sworn.)

17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
18 and spell your last name.

19 MS. POLLARD: Jean Ann Pollard,
20 P-o-l-l-a-r-d.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

22 MS. POLLARD: I live in Turney, Missouri
23 in Caldwell County.

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

25 MS. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman and members

1 of the Commission. As I stated, my name is Jean Ann
2 Pollard and I'm a resident of Caldwell County,
3 Missouri.

4 My husband and I have lived on our
5 family farmers for 40 years. My husband and I are
6 third generation farmers/landowners and are currently
7 in the process of breaking our adult children into the
8 folds of our operation, thus making it a fourth
9 generation operation. Over the past ten years we have
10 experienced Rocky Express Pipeline, Keystone Pipeline
11 and most recently KCP&L power lines crossing our
12 private land under the public utilities provision of
13 eminent domain.

14 There is also the original -- what was
15 referred to as the Williams Pipeline which came across
16 land in 1952. This makes a total of four public
17 utilities as of today that bisect most of the land we
18 farm.

19 Our family business has had no
20 alternative but to negotiate with these entities.
21 Needless to say it has been time consuming,
22 compromising, frustrating and costly. I don't know of
23 too many other businesses that can sustain and grow
24 profitably after such an onslaught of this kind on
25 their daily business operations.

1 In spite of all of these entities
2 efforts of 100% restoration promises there is still
3 issues with the land integrity as there are sinkholes
4 and thing have been compromised. And, oh, by the way,
5 in case anybody is interested our land was never really
6 for sale, but due to the fact that there were public
7 utilities we had to negotiate with these entities.

8 As we plan ahead for our personal goals
9 and longer term security of our family operations we
10 have confidence that the Commission will respect and
11 honor the eminent domain provisions set forth by the
12 state of Missouri and reject requests submitted by
13 Grain Belt Express.

14 The financial gain for this so called
15 group of investors is huge at the hands of private
16 citizens and landowners in the state of Missouri. The
17 long term implications of approval of this request will
18 significantly will change the landscape of Missouri
19 land rights years well beyond my age.

20 The Commission decision to grant the
21 certificate of need as it is called has no long term
22 benefits to Missouri. We don't need Grain Belts power.
23 And our neighboring states have -- some of our
24 neighboring states have different determinations.
25 Additionally, there is a high probability that it will

1 devalue our land and farming around these utilities can
2 become very time consuming, dangerous and quite frankly
3 unnecessary. We have poles and power lines everywhere.

4 The pipeline flies -- they fly a plane
5 at least once a week. They're out there so much that
6 when we plant a tree they want to know what we're
7 doing. We cooperate with those folks. It's an
8 agreement that we reached with them. The real grain
9 belt is all about feeding the citizens of this country
10 and not about corporate greed and agendas.

11 I urge you, each of you, to think
12 carefully about the precedence your decision on this
13 policy will make. For just a while, put your personal
14 -- own personal situation in the shoes of my family and
15 families all across the state of Missouri. As you
16 value your home and your space that you have worked so
17 hard to work for, eminent domain in the state of
18 Missouri was put in place for a reason. To protect the
19 rights of landowners and homeowners, private business
20 and all citizens of this state while allowing for the
21 necessity of bonafide public utilities. Mr. Chairman
22 and members of the Commission thank you for your time.

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Phillip Fracica.

24 (Witness sworn.)

25 JUDGE BUSHMAN: Please state your name

1 and spell your last name.

2 MR. FRACICA: Phillip Fracica,
3 F-r-a-c-i-c-a.

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

5 MR. FRACICA: I live in Columbia.

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

7 MR. FRACICA: I would like the
8 Commission for the opportunity to testify tonight. I'm
9 currently not a resident of Buchanan County, but I
10 lived here for five years. I graduated from Central
11 High School in St. Joseph back in 2011 and I really
12 wish that this project had been around for
13 consideration back then.

14 I wrestled throughout my time in high
15 school and I actually competed at this school in 2010.
16 There is a clear funding difference in Kansas City
17 schools and what we have available to us in this
18 county. I think the property taxes that would come
19 from this project can really help our kids in this
20 community and throughout to county to give them and
21 even playing field against kids who are in a area of
22 very wealthy property taxes.

23 This project would give \$700,000 to this
24 county in the first year alone. Not even consider the
25 \$7.2 million that would go to the 8 counties across the

1 state. Additionally, the Missouri
2 Public Utility Alliance which is -- consist of all the
3 municipal utilities in the state would have \$10 million
4 annual in savings. And their energy costs from
5 switching to wind from this project instead of coal
6 which they are currently getting from out of the state.
7 This would impact me personally and that my utility
8 bill and other Missourians that live in municipalities
9 would have decrease energy bills due to the lower cost
10 from wind energy.

11 And then additionally, there is a very
12 clear demand for more renewable energy from
13 corporations and more industrial consumers in this
14 state. We are currently not able to offer up jobs to
15 Amazon, Facebook, Google, Apple and other big time
16 companies that are expanding because we don't have
17 renewable energy. They get 100 kilowatts of solar from
18 wind on their roof. Outside of that, they can't really
19 do much.

20 This project and the 300 megawatts that
21 have been unclaimed would be available to meet that
22 demand and could lead to much more than the 1,600 jobs
23 that we mentioned to new facilities, new jobs, new
24 opportunities for young Missourians and many who have
25 trend skill sets. I thank you for the opportunity is

1 testify tonight.

2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Ted Rogers.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
5 and spell your last name.

6 MR. ROGERS: Ted Rogers, R-o-g-e-r-s.

7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

8 MR. ROGERS: Faucett, Missouri.

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

10 MR. ROGERS: We live really close to
11 this power line and it's kind of like 200 feet from our
12 home. We've lived there for -- I've lived there for 60
13 years.

14 We just don't know what this is going to
15 do to our house when it moves in. There's two creeks
16 that's going across on the farm and they're going to
17 clear cut these creeks. And they will keep them clear
18 cut and there will be growth on them.

19 It's going to damage the wildlife, the
20 deer, the turkey. And it's just -- we have no idea
21 what it's going to do. All the people that I see
22 coming from clean grain, as soon as they're done
23 talking they're walking out the door. They don't seem
24 to be interested in the project other than just selling
25 products. Two of them hopes they will get a contract.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
2 and spell your last name.

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Russ Williams,
4 W-i-l-l-i-a-m-s.

5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Agency, Missouri.

7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

8 MR. WILLIAMS: From my count I believe
9 we had heard from six people tonight that were testify
10 for the Grain Belt.

11 I urge you folks to listen to the people
12 who have not testified for the Grain Belt. We are the
13 ones that have to live with this day and day out. In
14 order to see these six people, none of which I believe
15 live within 10 miles of this proposed line, I would ask
16 them to think about what they would do in the same
17 situation. Thank you for your time.

18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Bill Griffith. Bill
19 Griffith. Troy Hayes.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
22 and spell your last name.

23 MR. HAYES: Troy Hayes, H-a-y-e-s.

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live,
25 sir?

1 MR. HAYES: I live in Maryville,
2 Missouri.

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

4 MR. HAYES: As I said, I live in
5 Maryville, Missouri, and I'm the president of Midland
6 Survey and Midland GIS Solutions. We also offer --
7 operate an office here in St. Joseph, Missouri. And I
8 am here to speak in support of the project, but I can
9 also say that I sympathies with the landowners. Up in
10 Nodaway County we've had a couple of wind farm projects
11 that -- one of which directly affected property that I
12 owned. And we also just recently had the midwest
13 transmission line that KCP&L put through the entire
14 length of Nodaway County.

15 You know, I'm an avid hunter, I'm an
16 avid conservationist. I've completed several prairie
17 restoration projects myself. And I'd be lying if I
18 said that, you know, some of the farms that I hunt on
19 look better with the wind turbines.

20 I also understand the economic benefit
21 that they bring. You know, I've had the pleasure of
22 watching my son play basketball in the Jefferson gym
23 and they probably wouldn't have had the funds to
24 purchase without the additional tax revenue that was
25 generate through the wind farm project up there. I've

1 also have the pleasure of being able to keep over half
2 of my staff busy for over a year and a half on one of
3 these so called temporary projects that was the midwest
4 transmission line.

5 We also had the opportunity to do the
6 acquisition surveys on that project. And sometimes
7 that was a pretty difficult thing because many of the
8 landowners that were involved with that project or
9 affected by that project felt exactly like some of the
10 people here. And a lot of those people were friends
11 and neighbors of mine that I've known my entire life.
12 And having to go out and survey on their property when
13 they felt like that about the project was a difficult
14 thing. Believe it or not the project has ended now and
15 a lot of those people still speak to me. And I've had
16 the opportunity to talk to a lot of them and in more
17 cases than not their outlook now is positive. They
18 were satisfied with the compensation they received from
19 the project. They were satisfied with the way the
20 construction was handled and the benefit that it
21 brings.

22 One of the things that my company does
23 is to facilities mapping for local communities.
24 Several of the communities that are going to be
25 benefiting with the option to purchase electricity for

1 this project are our clients and I know that in working
2 with them in the past that they have become more and
3 more concerned each year with the availability of
4 economic energy to purchase so they can continue to
5 distribute electricity in the communities.

6 And I know that several communities in
7 the area are looking at the option and are excited
8 about the possibilities it might bring. I appreciate
9 your time and I do want to speak in support of the
10 project. Thank you.

11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Adam Teale.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
14 and spell your last name.

15 MR. TEALE: Adam Teale, T-e-a-l-e.

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

17 MR. TEALE: Maryville, Missouri.

18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

19 MR. TEALE: I am one of the owners of
20 Midland Surveying and Midland GIS Solutions. And it
21 has been brought up today about temporary jobs.

22 My responsibility every day on the
23 survey site is we employ 25 people. With a spouse and
24 at least one child, that means every night that I go to
25 bed I have to make sure that I brought in enough work

1 that day to feed and cloth at least 75 people for
2 another day.

3 And so I'm here -- these jobs to us
4 being a local firm and having an office in St. Joe and
5 the potential to bid on this project, these are not
6 temporary jobs for us. These are permanent jobs for
7 us. We've had the opportunity, unfortunately to send
8 crews to Seattle, Washington and El Paso, Texas, to
9 Hershey, Pennsylvania because that's where the jobs
10 were and that's where the money was. So we send our
11 crews there for weeks at a time and put them up in
12 hotels and they're away from their spouse. They're
13 away from their children until we get that job done.

14 This is an opportunity for us to
15 potentially bid on a project to bring our crews back
16 home and allow them to sleep in their own beds every
17 night. To see their spouse every night and to enjoy a
18 ballgame that one of their kids has or a music event
19 and be involved with their family on a daily basis. I
20 appreciate the opportunity to speak in favor of this
21 project. Thank you.

22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Richard
23 Summers.

24 (Witness sworn.)

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name

1 and spell your last name.

2 MR. SUMMERS: Richard Summers,
3 S-u-m-m-e-r-s.

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

5 MR. SUMMERS: Camden Point.

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

7 MR. SUMMERS: I just came out to speak a
8 little bit on behalf of this line. I'm a journeyman
9 lineman and I've been building power lines for 15 years
10 now.

11 The amount of jobs this project is going
12 to create across the state is just unbelievable from
13 production to the construction and it's definitely
14 needed in all the communities.

15 It's not just the jobs or the tax
16 revenue but the financial gains for the small
17 communities is unbelievable on these projects. I just
18 recently completed the (inaudible) and the little gas
19 stations and motels, restaurants. It's everything from
20 lodging to laundry. The money is spent locally also.
21 I just hope that everybody is able to keep that in mind
22 when they consider this project. Thank you.

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Tori Smith.

24 (Witness sworn.)

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name

1 and spell your last name.

2 MS. SMITH: Tori Smith, S-m-i-t-h.

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

4 MS. SMITH: In St. Joe.

5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

6 MS. SMITH: First and foremost I am
7 against this. The one thing that I don't hear a lot
8 about is the legacy. The legacy that our family
9 farmers have and want to have for their children.
10 Generations of families.

11 To me it's just cruel. I don't think --
12 think about that jobs that this is bringing, but what
13 are we doing the families who own these farms and how
14 are we disrupting their legacy for their future
15 generations.

16 As a healthcare provider I worry about
17 what the ramifications are with the long-term exposure
18 to these towers. Is there any data backing that? I
19 don't know of any because this would be new and that's
20 scary. That's scary territory.

21 In looking at other forms of clean
22 energy, I came across a company called Lucede Energy
23 and they're out of Portland and they do -- they started
24 in Portland what's called a piper power turbines and
25 already established waterlines to harness energy. And

1 it's already established and it's not ruining our skies
2 and it's not ruining our land and it's not killing our
3 wildlife. It's not disrupting our family farms.

4 You know, things like that I'm all for
5 and everybody else is for clean energy, but I'm just
6 totally, totally against this.

7 You know, we talk about the jobs
8 created. The jobs that are taken away from the farmer.
9 Sure they think it's just one farm compared to hundreds
10 of jobs for people. You know that one farmer feeds
11 America. What kind of impact is that going to have?
12 Just some things that I think about in determining why
13 I'm totally against this. Thank you for your time.

14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. We've been
15 going about an hour and a half. Why don't we take a
16 short break. We'll be in recess for about ten minutes.

17 (Recess.)

18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: We're back from our
19 break. Next person up, Tom Kalin.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
22 and spell your last name?.

23 MR. KALIN: Tom Kalin, K-a-l-i-n.

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

25 MR. KALIN: I live in Kansas, but I want

1 to report that my parents moved to Faucett in 1943.
2 And that family farm is still owned by the family. And
3 the transmission line goes across the corner of that
4 property. We're concerned about it.

5 I've heard a lot today about what might
6 happen in the future. But the point in the whole
7 discussion is the Commission has the responsibility to
8 issue a variance. If the thing started -- if this
9 project started tomorrow it would be illegal, not
10 lawful, because the state of Missouri has right-of-way
11 responsibility from the Public Service Commission based
12 on utility ownership or the state or government
13 agencies.

14 So this project is illegal until the
15 Commission does something rather dramatic or the state
16 of Missouri changes the law.

17 And I think you've heard a lot of
18 witnesses say that they object to this. And we're
19 talking about landowners. I notice that all the people
20 that were for this project don't have land here in
21 Buchanan County. I do. My family does.

22 I feel like turning the podium around,
23 but, anyway. The Commission has a responsibility for
24 issuing a variance. The problem with that is the next
25 guy that comes along does the same thing and you've

1 opened Pandora's Box to a whole bunch of illegal and
2 unlawful projects.

3 So let's keep it simple. The current
4 law about right-of-way and eminent domain has served
5 this county, this state, this nation for centuries.
6 Let's leave it that way. You can tell how complicated
7 it can get.

8 So it's your responsibility to take a
9 hard look at this and we're pleading with you to not
10 give a variance and open Pandora's Box for this project
11 and other projects that would follow.

12 I've heard testimony that air power,
13 wind power is cheaper, it's not. Because the
14 government is so heavily subsidizing it. It looks
15 cheaper, but it's not. So that's my pitch. I
16 appreciate you coming and hearing the public. It's
17 great opportunity for us and we thank you for it.

18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Mike Laney.

19 (Witness sworn.)

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
21 and spell your last name.

22 MR. LANEY: Mike Laney, L-a-n-e-y.

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

24 MR. LANEY: I live in Olathe, Kansas.

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

1 MR. LANEY: I am here in support of the
2 project. And I do not want to be insensitive to the
3 people of this great community and this great county
4 here.

5 My viewpoint as an outsider is as an
6 engineer. I'm a civil and geo-technical engineer. Our
7 company stands to hopefully have an opportunity to be
8 involved in the environmental due diligence,
9 geo-technical engineering and foundation design and
10 materials testing on this project.

11 And I know several people that -- our
12 company employees across Missouri. So that's why --
13 one of my reasons for supporting this. But on a global
14 scale as an engineer, I have some grave concerns about
15 the state of the infrastructure in the United States of
16 America as a whole. ASEE every year releases
17 infrastructure report cards and last decade we have
18 consistently been at a DE+ and that's as a nation.

19 Energy security is very important to me
20 and I hope to most people. I understand that no one
21 wants power lines in their backyard. I certainly would
22 not be happy about it myself, but the lines need to go
23 somewhere. Infrastructure needs to be improved. And
24 unfortunately somebody is not going to be happy or have
25 to be affected by it negatively for the greater good of

1 the rest of country.

2 I support this project just from and
3 engineering perspective. And that's all I have to say
4 today. Thank you.

5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Tanner
6 Yost.

7 (Witness sworn.)

8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
9 and spell your last name.

10 MR. YOST: Tanner Yost, Y-o-s-t.

11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

12 MR. YOST: Lindsborg, Kansas.

13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

14 MR. YOST: Good evening. Thank you for
15 this opportunity to share a few words with you today
16 about the impacts of the Grain Belt Express DC Clean
17 Line.

18 I work for Kirkham Michael engineers as
19 a civil engineer out of Ellsworth, Kansas. I grew up
20 in a rural community down in Clark County, Kansas, in
21 which I acted as a county engineer. Clark County is
22 located in southwest Kansas where there are actually
23 two transmission lines and two wind farms residing in
24 Clark County.

25 I've had the great opportunity to work

1 on these projects and several other transmission lines
2 and wind farm projects across Kansas. All of these
3 projects have been a great addition to local economies
4 by generating jobs and providing an extra revenue
5 source. With the additional revenue generated many
6 counties and cities have been able to design and
7 construct much needed infrastructure projects across
8 the state. These infrastructure projects range from
9 roads and bridges to new schools and hospitals. All
10 make a great addition to the local communities.

11 One other beneficial aspect of the Grain
12 Belt Express DC Clean Line is the projects plan to use
13 local materials and resources for means of completing
14 the project. Some of the local materials include
15 gravel, sand, rock, steel, lumber. And some of the
16 local resources include hotels, restaurants,
17 convenience stores, gas stations, lumber yards and RV
18 parks.

19 I can't count on one such instance in
20 south central Kansas where all the hotels and RV parks
21 were full for three months within the 30 mile vicinity
22 of the transmission line project. Just think how much
23 revenue was created for these three months.

24 Furthermore, during the planned three
25 years of construction Grain Belt Express Clean Line

1 Project will support approximately 1,500 jobs. These
2 jobs include dirt workers, truck drivers, concrete
3 workers, excavators, electricians, surveyors, material
4 testers, engineers and maintenance workers. The list
5 goes on and on.

6 And finally, must also mention one
7 misconception about property taxes in Kansas. In
8 Kansas the state law for all transmission projects
9 provides a tax exempt for the first ten years of the
10 project. The Grain Belt Express Clean Line hasn't
11 really seeked anything special or different in Kansas.
12 They just have the exemption provided by the law. To
13 my understanding, a law like this doesn't exist in
14 Missouri in which the Grain Belt Express Clean Line
15 isn't allowed to seek exemption from property taxes.

16 So in conclusion, I support it and I
17 hope you choose to allow the Grain Belt Express Clean
18 Line to become a beneficial project within Missouri.
19 Thank you.

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Ann Brock.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
23 and spell your last name.

24 MS. BROCK: Ann Brock, B-r-o-c-k.

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

1 MS. BROCK: Agency, Missouri.

2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

3 MS. BROCK: We're here again defending
4 our property against this private company trying to use
5 eminent domain to take it. I still find that it can
6 only be detrimental to our property values and the
7 value of our land and it has no benefit other than for
8 the company and its investors.

9 I believe we have great minds in this
10 country who can come up with better solutions to our
11 energy problems than this project. And I urge you to
12 reject this project. And I thank you for the
13 opportunity to speak.

14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Mary Hunt.

15 (Witness sworn.)

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
17 and spell your last name.

18 MS. HUNT: Mary Hunt.

19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

20 MS. HUNT: Went to Faucett High School
21 and was raised all of my younger life here. My sister
22 and I were joint owners in a farm. We have 200 acres
23 that we farm. Teddy Rogers farms for us. And the
24 question -- we fought this two years ago.

25 We were in St. Joe at the courthouse.

1 This hasn't been brought up. Testimony after testimony
2 of people that had these lines. One man who was
3 probably about 70, he said he was putting up a fence
4 and he was not that far away from the deal and the
5 hammer from the electrical volts went back and hit him
6 in the head.

7 He also said that people who live around
8 him, this whole family was wiped out because they all
9 got brain cancer. The birds and the animals tell you
10 that. And the animals they say, they can't reproduce,
11 they're sterile. And the birds and everything just
12 don't go around it.

13 But I was born here and I went to
14 Faucett High School and graduated from here. My dad
15 was a large farmer. And Teddy -- my dad farmed the
16 whole time he was alive. But Teddy had the most
17 beautiful crops this year. We raised soy beans and
18 corn. Just beautiful. And I've never seen prettier
19 crops.

20 We also -- the railroad from St. Joe
21 from Kansas City to Chicago went on the backside of our
22 property. And those people talking about those big
23 haulers, we had those big haulers. We had deer. We
24 have all kinds of conservationist.

25 And the Sierra Club, I joined that

1 because they sent me things to make me join it and I
2 joined thinking I was going to help the animals, buy
3 you don't help the animals, it's to get you to tell you
4 how to vote and whose propaganda to believe in.

5 I believe that we have fought this, we
6 fought it hard and I think it's a health issue.

7 And then the other thing I was told in
8 St. Joe, I said, okay, say this company goes belly
9 under, who's going to pay for removing those 200 feet
10 towers? That's on us. So you can imagine I-29 goes
11 right in the middle of our farm. So we're going to
12 have those post on both sides and people driving under
13 them like down in Camden Point.

14 What does -- if it's a health, what does
15 it do to the people driving under those lines or being
16 around those lines.

17 And as far as making jobs. It's going
18 to make jobs for a short time. But the farmers are
19 going to have live there. And crops in this day and
20 age are very essential for making food for everybody.
21 Corn and soy beans makes all kinds of food.

22 And I ask you this, if you were in our
23 shoes -- I live in Liberty, Missouri. I don't think
24 you asked me where I live. But I live in Liberty,
25 Missouri. I'm not even up here anymore. And I am just

1 so devastated because of these people having to have
2 health issues. And the birds and the animals are, too.
3 I'm a avid animal lover. Have always been.

4 So I just ask you -- appreciate you
5 hearing us. I ask you to -- really like that gentleman
6 said, to do your homework and find out the pluses and
7 the minuses and think about all of us. Pray about it.
8 Pray about it. I ask you to do that, too. But I thank
9 you for listening to me.

10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Paula
11 Raccuglia.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
14 and spell your last name.

15 MS. RACCUGLIA: Paula Raccuglia,
16 R-a-c-c-u-g-l-i-a.

17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

18 MS. RACCUGLIA: And currently live in
19 Olathe. I grew up here and also share a family farm.

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay.

21 MS. RACCUGLIA: So we've heard a lot of
22 things tonight. It would be nice if we had fact
23 checkers to hear all of these statements of the
24 promises and the things that it will bring.

25 Unfortunately we don't have that, but I

1 did take time to do a little fact checking and I
2 realize that there's many other states that have also
3 been presented with this from Grain Belt Express Clean
4 Line. And much opposition has been brought by those
5 states. I read just a short note here by the State
6 Senator Mark Allen and Representative John Bennett
7 opposing, opposing Clean Line in the state of Oklahoma.
8 It's a huge negative impact to the state of Oklahoma.
9 It's about a \$40 million negative impact on tax
10 credits. Clean Line coming through and saying that
11 they're going to give money to the schools and taxes on
12 property taxes, but that depreciates out to zero in 20
13 years. And this line will be here permanently if they
14 build it, Allen said, Mr. Allen said. It's not going
15 to be anything positive for the state. The state won't
16 get anything out of it.

17 So we here about all these benefits and
18 we hear about all of the pluses and what it will do for
19 those people, someone else here tonight from Olathe
20 that's an engineer and how excited he is for what it
21 will do for him, but I ask him to check his heart for
22 those, mine is a family generation farm. Every dime my
23 father made while serving in World War II was saved to
24 purchase that farm. My mother worked making bullets in
25 a bullet plant to buy the family farm. It has been

1 passed to us. And our hope is to provide food, raise
2 crops to help America even though I don't live on the
3 family farm I want it preserved.

4 My heart goes out to the other 600
5 families. And I just ask for everyone to please check
6 your heart. Don't let greed rule. There is so many
7 things with our -- if we can go to the moon the
8 technology should me that you can bury those lines.
9 They bury lines in the ocean floors.

10 We talked about clean energy but how
11 clean is it to have 150 to 250 foot electrical voltage
12 line where we have to worry about the health of our
13 children and families not to mention conserving our
14 conservation. Not to mention the devaluation. This
15 farm -- speaking just for ourselves, will be so
16 devalued because the line is going right down the
17 middle of it.

18 Not only that, we own some other
19 property that adjoins because I-29 separates it, so we
20 have to contend with it on the east and west side of
21 I-29. There are many other people here tonight. Mine
22 is just one small place. But my point is, please
23 investigate this, we've already been here three times.
24 I've been to two other meetings.

25 And this crackling we're hearing, yes,

1 there's some overhead lines in Olathe and everytime I
2 take a long walk and go near those lines the crackling
3 and popping. I can't imagine if I had to live under
4 that 24 hours a day. Not to mention the health risk.

5 So I think that there's been many things
6 said tonight and we weigh the scales of justice. The
7 justice for those that have lifetime investments.
8 Family, sweat, blood and tears that bought that land.
9 And many people who are looking to gain wealth from
10 what they can provide with their education in
11 engineering or representation of a large corporation
12 which we've already heard 40% is owned outside of the
13 United States.

14 I say let's make America great, but we
15 can make it great by doing it with wisdom and much more
16 modern ways instead of having these towers stretch
17 across our land and being an eye sore and a detriment
18 to all of us. Thank you. Thank you for your time.

19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: The next witness is
20 Cindy and I can't read her last name. Is there a Cindy
21 who signed up to testify? I think you're the only one
22 so come on.

23 (Witness sworn.)

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
25 and spell your last name.

1 MS. MARTINEZ: Cindy Martinez,
2 M-a-r-t-i-n-e-z. I apologize as I'm getting over a
3 cold here.

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

5 MS. MARTINEZ: Kansas City.

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

7 MS. MARTINEZ: I came here to support
8 the Grain Belt Express Clean Line. And I have a lot of
9 sympathy for all the testimony that I've heard from the
10 landowners and everything because my family was a farm
11 family.

12 My testimony here is as a nurse. I've
13 been a home health nurse for many years. And I've seen
14 the firsthand affects of poor air quality on people and
15 how they have had to suffer for years from COPD and
16 asthma and all these different things that come up
17 because of the air not being clean.

18 And usually it's the kids and the
19 elderly that are affected the most and the poor people.
20 And one of these ways that I see that Clean Line is
21 going to reduce air pollution and it's going to help
22 the infrastructure and that's where these goes in this
23 country is to improve the infrastructure. Because
24 right now we're not getting energy the right way by
25 using all the fossil fuels. It's just not the proper

1 way to go.

2 And the clean renewable energy I hope
3 this will bring and that's what I'm for. That's my
4 testimony.

5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. John Lilak.

6 (Witness sworn.)

7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
8 and spell your last name.

9 MR. LILAK: John Lilak, L-i-l-a-k.

10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

11 MR. LILAK: I live in Prairie Village,
12 Kansas.

13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

14 MR. LILAK: My profession and what I do
15 for a living is the love of the outdoors. It's for
16 surveying. Since I was about 5 years old I've been on
17 my family farm out in central Kansas. Stayed out there
18 and saw my grandfather and heard all the stories about
19 how he came up and had to work two farms at once
20 because his father-in-law sold him the farm. He
21 wouldn't give it to him even if he got married to his
22 daughter.

23 So understanding how the farm community
24 is and how that works through and legacy is key, but at
25 the same time without what we're having for

1 infrastructure within the communities, within the
2 states, within the United States itself, we're not
3 going to go far. That infrastructure is failing. And
4 infrastructure one way or another, if it's Clean Line
5 Energy Line for the DC going through or if it's an
6 extra train track what would you rather have, extra
7 smoke going behind your property or would you have
8 Clean Line Energy going along it.

9 So for the benefit of what this is
10 coming through, yes, it's going to bring economy to it.
11 But all the different jobs I've done through my career
12 which is 25-30 years and without the infrastructure
13 improving and without accepting change we're not going
14 to be able to satisfy our employment rate. We're not
15 going to be able to move forward. We're just going to
16 stagnate in our own modern technology. We're not going
17 to accept that and we are going to just stay in one
18 place.

19 We've got to accept the change. We've
20 got to understand the new technology and we need to
21 move it forward. And so I'm very much in support for
22 the Clean line Energy so that way we can move forward
23 instead of backward. Thank you for your support.
24 Thank you for your time.

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Jason Potts.

1 (Witness sworn.)

2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
3 and spell your last name.

4 MR. POTTS: Jason Potts, P-o-t-t-s.

5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

6 MR. POTTS: Hannibal, Missouri.

7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

8 MR. POTTS: I'm a licensed surveyor in
9 the state of Missouri and I've worked on several
10 projects very similar to this across Missouri and
11 Kansas.

12 And I see the money they bring and the
13 jobs they bring to the areas. Like was said earlier,
14 the amount of people that come and stay in the hotels
15 and eat at the restaurants and the length of time they
16 are there.

17 Something else I've noticed on previous
18 jobs, transmission lines and oil lines is how they take
19 care of the landowners when they come and ask them and
20 say, hey, it helps so much if this could be over here
21 just a little bit to get my combines through or a road
22 that's going to be built or something like that. I
23 always thought that was interesting how they work with
24 homeowners and property owners. And that's what I came
25 to say.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Pamela
2 Eslinger.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: State your name and
5 spell your last name.

6 MS. ESLINGER: Pamela Eslinger,
7 E-s-l-i-n-g-e-r.

8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

9 MS. ESLINGER: Faucett, Missouri.

10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

11 MS. ESLINGER: I've lived in Faucett for
12 about 48 years. I own a farm there. It will go to my
13 son who lives down the road from me when I'm gone.

14 My -- fortunately right now, this
15 project does not impact my farm. What scares me is
16 that if you grant this eminent domain things change.
17 They can come in and they can control my farm. And I
18 don't want that. So I want to add my support to the
19 people that say I'm opposed to this project. Thank
20 you.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. David
22 Mitchell.

23 (Witness sworn.)

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
25 and spell your last name.

1 MR. MITCHELL: David Mitchell,
2 M-i-t-c-h-e-l-l.

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

4 MR. MITCHELL: Native Missourian and
5 born in Columbia, Missouri, and living in Kansas City.

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

7 MR. MITCHELL: I'm here to speak in
8 favor of the Clean Line Express as a concerned citizen
9 who cares about the health and welfare of our
10 environment.

11 In conversation with Clean Line staff I
12 have the understanding that the utility -- any utility
13 has, as a last resort, the option of eminent domain.
14 It seems to me this issue is somewhat a red herring in
15 the sense that KCP&L and Amoran also have that
16 opportunity to do that. I don't perceive Clean Line as
17 any different than KCP&L or Amoran in this respect.

18 Our society is -- we run on electrical
19 energy. There are -- I'm sure transmission lines all
20 over this country. In listening to the testimony today
21 I hear the concerns here, but I think that the point
22 that this other gentleman made was that -- you know,
23 there is no way to move forward without a certain
24 amount of infrastructure. And anything you build has a
25 certain amount of consequences. There are

1 choices to be made here. Coal plants I know are
2 responsible for high mercury levels in freshwater fish.
3 They are responsible for high mercury levels in deep
4 sea tuna. The CO2 that coal plants put out is 40% of
5 the world total. There is an increasing acidification
6 in our oceans which are 30% more acidic than they were
7 in 1750. Increasing acidification will ultimately
8 threaten the base of the marine food chain.

9 Wind power is the wave of the future on
10 a worldwide basis. I realize that there are issues
11 involved here, but the bottom line is that as a society
12 we need to begin to make collective decisions that
13 moves us towards a state of relationship with our
14 living earth. Movement in this direction will
15 ultimately involve each and every one of us. Choices
16 must be made. Collective choices to develop
17 alternative energy moves us towards a much healthier
18 world. This must is a certainty.

19 It is the responsibility of the Public
20 Service Commission to make choices that benefit to --
21 to make decisions that benefit Missourians. To all
22 those who oppose the Clean Line Project, if you get
23 your way, then I ask you the question, if not Clean
24 Line, if not the promotion of alternative energy, if
25 not the promotion of clean energy, then there has to be

1 other choices made and how are you going to make those
2 choices? Thank you.

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Lori
4 Fisher.

5 (Witness sworn.)

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
7 and spell your last name.

8 MS. FISHER: My name is Lori Fisher,
9 F-i-s-h-e-r.

10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

11 MS. FISHER: I live in Kansas City.

12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

13 MR. FISHER: Prior to living in Kansas
14 City I lived for 24 years in rural Iowa and I totally
15 appreciate what all has been said here tonight by
16 landowners.

17 And I come to speak tonight in favor of
18 the necessity of moving to wind, solar, alternative
19 energies. And I am glad that there are companies that
20 are wanting to do that.

21 But I think there has to be a way that
22 we all work together on this because the physics of
23 climate change are just going right on as we spend
24 years arguing about how to change to a new form of
25 energy in our country and in our world which we

1 desperately need to do or this whole area will be
2 impacted by drought after drought after drought. And
3 the farmlands and the farmers will suffer. And we will
4 all suffer. So something needs to be done.

5 And picking one group against another is
6 just going to doom us all. So I would wish that there
7 would be some way that the landowners here could work
8 together with the companies or company that is
9 interested in trying to promote clean energy. To work
10 together to find a way that this can be accomplished in
11 a timely manner because we don't have a lot of time.
12 Time is running out.

13 Climate change is happening now and it's
14 just going to get worse. And it will get to a certain
15 point and we won't be able to mitigate it. We won't be
16 able to have an impact.

17 And so as much as the Public Service
18 Commission can do, the landowners, the company, I wish
19 there would be a way that this project could be
20 something that the whole country could look to as a way
21 to move forward as we move into the clean energy
22 economy that we definitely need. Thank you so much.

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Don Fisher.

24 (Witness sworn.)

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name

1 and spell your last name.

2 MR. FISHER: Don Fisher, F-i-s-h-e-r.

3 I'm the other half of Lori who was just before you. We
4 do live in Kansas City.

5 As Lori said, I -- we lived in rural
6 communities and farming communities for a good number
7 of years. I served as a pastor with farmers through
8 the farm crisis and know the commitment of farming
9 people to the land. And the appreciation they have for
10 it, and the care that they generally provide for the
11 land. Whether we live in the rural community of
12 whether we live in the city we're all threatened by the
13 effects of climate change. And we must do whatever we
14 can to make it more possible to make alternative
15 energies available to everybody. Our way of life
16 whether we're rural or urban is in jeopardy.

17 For a long, long time the fossil fuel
18 industry has been subsidies by our way of life, such
19 that fossil fuel producers do not pay the full cost of
20 the damage to the environment. I would hope that there
21 is some way that the landowners who will be affected by
22 this project would be more than adamantly compensated
23 by the cost that might be added to the project like
24 should have been done for years and years and decades
25 and decades with fossil fuel and we've refused to do

1 that.

2 But with alternative energies maybe
3 there's a chance for a new way for all of us to find a
4 way to save this earth that we live on. And if we
5 continue with fossil fuels only it's not going to
6 happen. We need to make a change. It's a changing
7 world and we're all in it together. Thank you.

8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Michael
9 Pochop.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
12 and spell your last name.

13 MR. POCHOP: My name is Michael Pochop,
14 P-o-c-h-o-p.

15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live at.

16 MS. POCHOP: Lee Summit, Missouri.

17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

18 MR. POCHOP: I want to thank you for the
19 opportunity to speak tonight. I'm a vice president of
20 Hanson Professional Services which is an employee owned
21 engineering and planning company that offices
22 nationwide including Missouri.

23 I'm here to express support for the
24 Grain Belt Express Project due to the sustainable
25 energy it would transmit and many benefits it brings to

1 the region as mentioned by several folks already.

2 In addition to the manufacturing,
3 construction and engineering jobs and maintenance jobs,
4 transmission lines like Grain Belt Express bring
5 scientific engineer jobs to this area.

6 My company has been providing
7 engineering support services for transmission lines and
8 substations in Missouri and throughout the Midwest.
9 Projects such as this have been essential in providing
10 important work for our engineers, water resources
11 folks, surveyors and environmental scientist. Keeping
12 everybody employed and paying taxes. In fact, we're
13 already at work in Missouri, so Missouri employees on
14 the Clean Line Energy Projects under contract are
15 General Electric on the design and permitting of
16 converter stations. To be constructed in Oklahoma,
17 Arkansas, Tennessee, for Clean Line Energy plains and
18 eastern line. Similar to the converter
19 station proposed for Ralls County, Missouri, as part of
20 the Grain Belt Express Project. Some of the services
21 we provide include subsurface investigations and other
22 designs has others have mentioned. The utilities we
23 work for recognize the importance of using local
24 engineers that understand the local soils and geology.

25 In our case we have working

1 relationships with other local firms that actually
2 provide some of the same services and other support
3 items that we need for successful engineering.

4 Overall, these large transmission
5 projects are not only important to Hanson as a business
6 but also to me as an employee owner and other employee
7 owners in the state of Missouri and our families.

8 I have personally dealt with in
9 interconnection transmission -- I'm sorry, distribution
10 line impact my property without compensation because
11 the product itself is adjacent to my property as those
12 that are mentioned this evening so I understand the
13 impact. Large infrastructure projects whether they are
14 railroads, highways, transmission lines will always
15 have an impact on somebody. And you can't minimize
16 that, it's a critical thing.

17 Clean Line energy is going beyond what
18 I've seen with typical infrastructure easement process
19 with the acquisition from local landowners with their
20 Missouri landowner protocol. This project has long and
21 short term benefits in both economics and
22 infrastructure in the state of Missouri and the
23 country.

24 And I appreciate your folks service to
25 the state of Missouri in weighing these benefits

1 against the impacts this project will have. Thank you
2 for your time.

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Denise
4 Bartles.

5 (Witness sworn.)

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
7 and spell your last name.

8 MS. BARTLES: Denise Bartles,
9 B-a-r-t-l-e-s.

10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

11 MS. BARTLES: Faucett, Missouri.

12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

13 MS. BARTLES: Are the people who
14 testified earlier in favor of this still under oath?

15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: If they were to come up
16 and testify again then they might.

17 MS. BARTLES: Well, I wanted to ask them
18 that if Grain Belt rerouted through Maryville, St.
19 Joseph, Kansas City, Lee Summit, Columbia and Overland
20 Park, if that would have any change about how they felt
21 about this project?

22 We have a high voltage line at the back
23 of our property. And of course it's nothing compared
24 to what Grain Line wants to put through. And when you
25 go back there is cracks, it's pops, you can hear it.

1 Sometimes you can almost feel it. And I can't imagine
2 what it will be like if we had one of these direct
3 current huge voltage lines running through our
4 property.

5 Our neighbors are affected, actually
6 we're not directly affected. But we know nothing about
7 the safety of these. They will cross many streams and
8 creeks. Has the EPA given their opinion on whether or
9 not this is environmentally protected? Because the
10 environment is important. There's no doubt about it.

11 I'm not in favor of this. We simply do
12 not know enough about what can happen with this health
13 wise and safety wise to both humans and animals to
14 crops.

15 As far as global warming that is man
16 made that's not settled science, a lot of scientist say
17 it's not. They haven't had any global warming in 10
18 years or more. With God all things are possible. And
19 I think man is a little bit arrogant to think that by
20 simply switching from clean coal to these overhead huge
21 power lines we save the planet. I can't see the
22 connection there at all.

23 I do thank you for letting me come here
24 tonight and give my opinion. And again, several times
25 now, different years, I hope the Public Service

1 Commission stays with the public. Thank you.

2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Jeff Smith.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
5 and spell your last name?

6 MR. SMITH: My name is Jeff Smith,
7 S-m-i-t-h.

8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

9 MR. SMITH: Faucett, Missouri.

10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

11 MR. SMITH: I'm a bit ill prepared
12 because I didn't anticipate speaking tonight. But --
13 in fact the last lady I noticed that everybody who is
14 for this are from out of town.

15 This line comes right between my
16 neighbor and I nearly right on top of his cattle barn.
17 The easements are massive for these things. Clean Line
18 doesn't even own a wind farm so they're not a public
19 utility. They're an extension cord. They're buying
20 energy from the future wind farm.

21 And I believe I spoke a couple of years
22 ago with Mr. Lawler, this energy goes clear to, what,
23 Rhode Island? Clear to the East Coast. Dabbles a
24 little bit in St. Louis, I'm I correct? Not positive.

25 And then they want to talk about all the

1 jobs. And yet we've had fellows talk about how many
2 hotels will fill up. So who's getting the jobs? If
3 we've got to fill hotels with the construction workers.
4 Where are they coming from? Obviously, not here.

5 I go back to, is it just investors who
6 are taking advantage of new laws to try and make
7 millions because we have to have 30% of our energy is
8 clean energy for the future. The last one of these I
9 spoke at, a gentleman came into the courthouse and said
10 some recognized leader in the industry that eventually,
11 realistically they will be individual fuel cells at our
12 homes to produce energy.

13 So to the gentleman who asked, if not
14 this, what, I suspect that might be it. I don't know.
15 But we don't want this. And if the folks from Overland
16 Park want it, fine. Run it through your backyard, not
17 ours. That's all I have. Thanks.

18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Aaron
19 McQueen.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
22 and spell your last name.

23 MS. MCQUEEN: Aaron McQueen,
24 M-c-Q-u-e-e-n.

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

1 MS. MCQUEEN: St. Joseph, Missouri.

2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

3 MS. MCQUEEN: I'm against the Grain Belt
4 Express because it goes through many family farms. It
5 takes away from the value of our land and it takes away
6 from our farmers, our future farmers including my
7 children.

8 We are a third generation farmer and
9 we're training the fourth generation right now. It
10 takes away from our income. And if we were to have to
11 buy more insurance, if it's taking away from our
12 income, how much more are we going to have to take out
13 in insurance to cover our fields. To cover our
14 combines and our equipment, if we were to accidentally
15 hit one of these power lines.

16 With that said, you guys have said --
17 people have said about creating jobs, who's to say that
18 it will stay in the community. Just like Jeff said,
19 they're going to be coming in and live in hotels. My
20 family works construction also. They travel. They may
21 not even come and do the jobs locally. How many of
22 these farms that it's going through are century farms
23 or will be -- soon to be century farms?

24 The other thing I noticed is that all
25 the people that are supporting it, they're not putting

1 it in their backyard. It's not going to be in their
2 window when they look out in the morning. Thank you
3 for letting me come up and speak.

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Steve
5 Lawlor.

6 (Witness sworn.)

7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
8 and spell your last name.

9 MR. LAWLOR: My name is Steve Lawlor,
10 L-a-w-l-o-r.

11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

12 MR. LAWLOR: St. Joseph, Missouri.

13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

14 MR. LAWLOR: I have a St. Joseph address
15 but I live just about a half mile from here. I have an
16 airport on the family farm here. We've had it for 27
17 years. And I'm looking at a different aspect of this
18 power line going through here because of the health
19 hazards because -- I've been flying for 44 years and
20 have several thousand flying hours and when I first
21 started flying we had encroachments in the air space of
22 cell phone towers and radio transmission towers, but
23 here we've got this new power line coming in with these
24 towers that are 150 to 200 feet high.

25 And the FCC even came out with a new

1 mandate that towers -- anything over 50 feet is suppose
2 to have a light with the exception of power lines. And
3 I don't know if any of you have really done any flying,
4 but if you look through the windshield of an airplane
5 you might see the towers, but the wires blend in with
6 the ground below.

7 And it's a definite health risk as far
8 as I'm concerned because you can't see these lines.
9 And I'm not the only one flying here, there's crop
10 dusters, there's also medivac and your helicopters and
11 your life flight. And we also have an air guard
12 squadron here. They're doing much of they're training
13 around 200 feet off the ground.

14 So this affects all of us. And I sure
15 appreciate you folks taking the time to listen to my
16 side of it. Thank you.

17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Daria
18 Ussary.

19 (Witness sworn.)

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
21 and spell your last name.

22 MS. USSARY: Daria Ussary, U-s-s-a-r-y.

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

24 MS. USSARY: Agency, Missouri.

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

1 MS. USSARY: I have a few points. The
2 only people speaking of being pro the power line are
3 talking jobs, don't live around, under or view these
4 proposed power lines. We have purchased two
5 pieces of commercial zoned property a year ago. We
6 would not have purchased this property if we knew that
7 there was even a slight chance that this disgrace of
8 economic destruction of property was going to be
9 rediscussed. This will ruin the commercial value of
10 this ground. There's 16 acres in one plot. There's
11 two in the other.

12 I would request that the voices be heard
13 of the people who have bought and paid for the land,
14 pay taxes on their land, and the people who live by
15 where this proposed line is scheduled to be ran. We
16 are not interested in having the token change Clean Air
17 is offering us.

18 I will add, I have not received anything
19 from Grain Belt regarding my ownership of the 16 acres
20 of commercial property that they want to run down the
21 middle of this property. I would think that if you
22 can't get the facts straight on who owns the property,
23 what other facts are not straight. I thank you for
24 your time.

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Kent Scott.

1 (Witness sworn.)

2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
3 and spell your last name.

4 MR. SCOTT: My name is Kent Scott.

5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

6 MR. SCOTT: I live in Agency, Missouri.

7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

8 MR. SCOTT: First and foremost thanks
9 for getting me off of those bleachers. It was killing
10 me.

11 I'm probably going to be redundant here
12 with several people who have already spoken. There is
13 a definite pattern here. North Kansas City proponent.
14 Prairie Village proponent. Overland Park, Kansas,
15 proponent. Lee Summit, Missouri. Columbia, on and on
16 and on and on.

17 These folks, while they probably feel
18 strongly about what they're saying when they get up
19 here about what they do, they don't know what's going
20 on here. They're a long way away. And I can't help
21 but think that -- I'm just trying to reconcile in my
22 mind that somebody in Lee Summit is saying, gosh, I got
23 to get up to Faucett, Missouri, and fight these evil
24 landowners so they don't get their way and they destroy
25 everything for the world because this coal mills and

1 everything else.

2 Anyway, that said. Thank you all for
3 taking time out of your schedules and lives to meet
4 with us. We realize that you also have lives and
5 families so being away from your towns and families
6 also creates a burden for you. I can wager a pretty
7 educated guess that none of you want to be here under
8 these circumstances so thank you.

9 Most of the folks here ask nothing more
10 than to be left alone and live their lives. I've heard
11 it all night long and you've heard it. To have a big
12 corporation such as Clean Line come in and try to land
13 grab for their monetary gain and to the private
14 landowners loss is to me shameful. While the proposed
15 power line doesn't cross my property I will get the
16 luxury of looking at towers and power lines just to the
17 north side of my property line. It does however cross
18 many of my neighbors and their respective properties
19 which they never asked for.

20 There have been a number of discussions
21 regarding health ramification also. Everyone can
22 speculate and claim this and that but the truth is no
23 one knows for sure. Why should a private company
24 seeking to place this line be allowed the move forward
25 with no concrete evidence of the health issues that may

1 manifest themselves. Anyone, including me, can say
2 this is or is not going to hurt you or your loved ones,
3 but no one knows for sure. I don't feel that the people
4 who are on this proposed route should be the test for a
5 private company seeking one thing and we all know
6 that's money.

7 A little over a year ago many of you
8 were up here and many of the folks assembled and we
9 listened to comments regarding Clean Line Energy then.
10 After much rhetoric and many meetings you denied Clean
11 Line's application. You all held 8 heavily attended
12 public hearings across the state as this case was
13 unprecedented for Missouri. As was said prior, never
14 more -- never before had a merchant transmission
15 company sought to build a high voltage line across a
16 state.

17 Public Service Chairman at the time
18 Robert Kenney and Daniel Hall at the time said the
19 project is consistent with state policy goals for
20 promoting renewable energy. It could also help
21 Missouri comply with the EPA's clean power plan. Mr.
22 Hall also said, the EPA rule is incredibly relevant to
23 whether the Grain Belt Express is in the public
24 interest. And if it leads to Missouri needing to add
25 wind energy for compliance then the state will look

1 back at this decision as a miss opportunity.

2 My feeling is, my feeling, wind energy
3 and compliance shouldn't amount to that wind energy
4 being transmitted to points east.

5 Others on the Commission question
6 whether the Grain Belt Express was the cheapest option
7 for Missouri to have clean energy. Commissioner Stoll
8 said, I believe in clean energy and I believe in wind
9 and solar power, but I don't believe in giving utility
10 status to anyone who comes along and claims that's what
11 they are going to deliver. He cited testimony from
12 evidence in a hearing last year where wind energy was
13 purchase elsewhere in the Midwest is cheaper than that
14 would be delivered by Grain Belt.

15 Michael Skelly, President of Clean Line,
16 said nothing in Missouri law requires transmission
17 lines to originate from regional transmission
18 organizational processes. It's seems that time and
19 time again there's always some sort of adversarial
20 response from Clean Line playing by the wind rules --
21 complaining when rules don't fit their gain.

22 Lastly, I'm reminded of the prior
23 meeting in St. Joe when a few hired guns spoke for
24 Columbia, et cetra. And the word NIMBY, comes back,
25 you guys heard it a million times I'm sure, not in my

1 backyard. We've got plenty of corridors going through
2 the state, I-70, 36 and what have you. We don't need
3 to be tearing up people's land here.

4 A year ago I asked a representative from
5 Clean Line what his response would be to the power
6 running through their backyard and got no response.
7 Thank you for your time. Merry Christmas.

8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Bill
9 Matney.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Can you state your name
12 and spell your last name.

13 MR. MATNEY: Bill Matney, M-a-t-n-e-y.

14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

15 MR. MATNEY: I live in Dearborn.

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

17 MR. MATNEY: The Clean Line Energy will
18 cross the Missouri River at my father-in-law's farm.
19 It will probably have two or three towers on it. They
20 say the largest towers are right there at the Missouri
21 River 200 feet in the air.

22 Now, he also has three pipelines running
23 underneath his ground which will be impacted by the
24 electricity coming off this power line. This is a
25 larger voltage than anything that has ever gone

1 through. They already have power -- studies that show
2 the excess energy off these power lines affects the
3 coating on these pipelines which will cause release of
4 possibly gas or petroleum products.

5 We just had a big explosion down at
6 Camden Point. So anywhere this power line parallels
7 these pipelines there is a possibility that it could
8 cause an erosion of the coating on these pipelines.
9 The pipeline companies are also concerned about this
10 situation. We do not need an episode of explosion --
11 of potential explosions anywhere along this pipeline.

12 It's a nice idea to send this all with
13 Clean Line with the wind generated electricity to the
14 eastern part of the United States. When you think
15 about the fact that all this is supposedly based on
16 wind farms out in Dodge City, Kansas, where all my
17 friends out there say they've never heard of any
18 possible wind farms starting. But it is real close to
19 a coal fire power plant.

20 Now if we're going to -- Gary House also
21 mentioned the fact that the wind energy is variation
22 and the amount of power and they would have to step up
23 the energy coming from the power plant. So how are we
24 saving the carbon emissions in the state of Missouri
25 and points east if we're making them generate more out

1 there to take up for what isn't being produced by the
2 wind energy? These are the points I want to bring up
3 and I thank you for your time.

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Brenda
5 Hill.

6 (Witness sworn.)

7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
8 and spell your last name.

9 MS. HILL: Brenda Hill, H-i-l-l.

10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

11 MS. HILL: Greenwood, Missouri.

12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

13 MS. HILL: I'm also an RN and have been
14 concerned with taking care of patients with heart
15 disease, lung disease and cancers.

16 I've taken care -- I've worked in ICU
17 for 10 years and saw people at their sickish and always
18 wondered what was going on. And with researching we
19 know that fossil fuels do contribute to the toxins that
20 can cause a lot of these illness.

21 I also am a mother and have two
22 children. One is here on earth and one is in heaven
23 waiting for me. And when he had Stage 4 lymphoma we
24 took him up to Mayo Clinic and he's body was full of
25 toxic chemicals. That was one of the first things they

1 wanted to do because lymphoma often is related to
2 having toxic chemicals in your body. So watching him
3 die a slow death and never having him here on earth is
4 something I can never explain to anyone who hasn't lost
5 a child.

6 And knowing that we need to get rid of
7 some of these toxins and we need to get to a cleaner
8 form of energy. We all use energy and we all need to
9 think about how we can think about getting cleaner
10 energy. So I do support having cleaner energy. I will
11 miss my son as long as I live, but I feel worse that
12 he's lost his life, my daughter has lost her only
13 sibling. But for -- but I worry about all the people
14 with heart disease who will get lung disease and other
15 cancers. It's not just my family. It's everybody in
16 the state of Missouri and everybody in our country.

17 Anyway, as I listened to everyone who
18 lives here I feel the pain that you're talking about.
19 I have a home that I love. I live somewhat out in the
20 country and I can appreciate if someone said things are
21 going to change.

22 I feel sorry for you that have to make
23 these decision. It's heart wrenching and it's very,
24 very difficult.

25 I do think that if we do go with this

1 plan, which I really want clean energy for so many
2 reasons, I do think that we need to think are we being
3 fair to the people. Are the people being treated
4 fairly. I don't know. Do we need arbitrators to
5 really find out what is fair for them. Is it going to
6 be good in the short term for a few years and then
7 something happens. I don't know. But it should be
8 fair for them.

9 Can they get a decrease in their energy
10 bills so they don't have to pay as much? If they're
11 the ones -- I mean, if everybody is -- my family is
12 impacted in a good way so that we don't have -- so I
13 have less toxins maybe our family would be healthier.
14 And everybody else is healthier and you'll be
15 healthier, too.

16 But is there a way that they can be
17 compensated more fairly those directly impacted that
18 are sacrificing a lot for the rest of us? Can they
19 have something, too? More than what they're going to
20 get. Not that they would trade it. Not that they
21 would say, well, I would not trade that, but at least
22 give them something more fair than potentially what
23 they're getting. And don't know what's fair, but maybe
24 arbitrators. That's something that can make it more
25 fair to them. Thank you very much.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Larry Runyan.

2 (Witness sworn.)

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
4 and spell your last name.

5 MR. RUNYAN: Larry Runyan, R-u-n-y-a-n.

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

7 MR. RUNYAN: I live in Stewartsville,
8 Clinton County.

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

10 MR. RUNYAN: I like to feel that I live
11 in the shadows of that flag right there and all that it
12 represents. About 250 years ago we fought a
13 revolution. We were oppressed and tyranny was going on
14 by the British Empire. We revolted and we won that
15 war. And as a result we ended up with a Constitution
16 and a Bill of Rights.

17 And through the decades we've also
18 through our legislative bodies have come up with other
19 laws. One of them is we have more rights and freedoms
20 than probably any other civilization that has ever
21 existed. And one of the most important rights is to
22 protect our property.

23 And I feel that we have the duty to
24 honor those that fought for those rights. And also to
25 protect them for ourselves and for those that come. I

1 feel that if we grant the right of eminent domain to a
2 private company for their profit we set a very
3 dangerous precedence for things to come in the future.
4 Things that we know nothing about.

5 I happen to live and have a piece of
6 property in DeKalb County that has new transmission
7 line on it, KCP&L. Being naive that I am, I didn't
8 realize what was going to happen after that
9 transmission line came in. And one of the biggest
10 fears that I would have is the wind turbines that are
11 going to follow. Those wind turbines are about 500
12 feet. And if I might demonstrate how tall they are
13 compared to me, if I am 6 foot 2, and this is about
14 8/10ths of an inch tall, this would be me standing next
15 to what a turbine would be next to us.

16 I'm about 4 miles right now from the
17 closest turbine. And probably 15 miles from the
18 farthest ones that I see. They build 97 of them. And
19 from my house I have the privilege of looking at over
20 60 of them. I didn't ask for that. I'm about 60 -- I
21 am 60 years old. I've worked on the farm my whole
22 life. It's a temporary job, but I've been there for
23 over 40 years. I did not work that hard to look at
24 these things every day.

25 My relationship with a lot of neighbors

1 no longer exists. The relationship with a lot of
2 families up there has been ruined. The transmission
3 line is only a conduit for the wind towers to come
4 behind.

5 I think they talked about the jobs. The
6 wind energy, the green energy with subsidies and the
7 tax credits and everything is actually twice as high as
8 coal and nuclear. What I think we're really
9 doing with jobs is we create energy that is higher than
10 anywhere else in the world. China is producing coal
11 plants right and left and where is all of our
12 manufacturing going? To China. So when we build these
13 turbines and raise our energy costs we're actually
14 sending jobs overseas. That's my opinion, but I know
15 it's a fact.

16 And I also believe that if we spent the
17 money that we are spending to develop this wind energy
18 technology which is not efficient to begin with that
19 our coal power plants would be much more efficient and
20 cleaner than they are today. The new coal fire plants
21 are much more efficient and cleaner than the older
22 ones. And I think we would be well to develop more
23 technology to have cleaner coal power power plant.

24 I also believe that your tax base as
25 these things come into effect, you will damage your tax

1 base. We are a better community then St. Joe and
2 Kansas City. We want those people to live here. You
3 want the doctors and the lawyers and the people that
4 work at Bohringers (phonetic) and the people that work
5 at Altec and the people that work at the forklift place
6 across the river, I forget the name of it, but anyway,
7 the teachers and all of the jobs that are in Kansas
8 City and St. Joseph. We need those people living in
9 our communities.

10 If we develop that wind transmission
11 lines and the wind towers come behind those people are
12 not going to live in our communities. Your schools
13 will eventually suffer.

14 I wonder why Cane City went from an
15 11-man football team to an 8-man football team.
16 They're surrounded with wind turbines and yet their
17 population is declining. I wonder if that's something
18 that we should be scared of in this community here and
19 all the communities along the Grain Belt Power Line.
20 Thank you very much.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Carrie
22 Bernard.

23 (Witness sworn.)

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
25 and spell the last name.

1 MS. BERNARD: Carrie Bernard,
2 B-e-r-n-a-r-d.

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

4 MS. BERNARD: I live in Faucett,
5 Missouri.

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

7 MR. BERNARD: I wasn't going to speak
8 today but I heard the people addressing the jobs. And
9 especially the people coming out and -- and talking
10 about the jobs back and forth.

11 My dad came out and spoke and my sister
12 came up with her friends. My dad's a fifth generation
13 farmer. And they talked about bringing in jobs that
14 would last. A fifth generation farmer is not just a
15 job, that's a legacy. My little grandson at 2 told me
16 the other day and he wanted to crawl and he said -- so
17 I heard him say, that's what I want to be. I want to
18 be a farmer like you.

19 What this is doing, it's threatening
20 this farm that has been in our family for all these
21 generations. It's threatening our legacy. It's
22 threatening what is going to be his -- I'm going to end
23 with something. Our deepest respect of the land and
24 it's harvest is a legacy of generations of farmers who
25 put food on our tables, persevere our landscape and

1 inspire us with a powerful work ethic. That was James
2 H. Douglas.

3 When they talk about bringing in jobs, I
4 don't think you can compare a temporary job with five
5 or seven years -- of these generations of legacies. So
6 I want you to keep that in mind. Thank you.

7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: That's all the names of
8 those who signed up to testify. Is there anybody who
9 has not testified either last week or earlier today?

10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay.

11 (Witness sworn.)

12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
13 and spell your last name.

14 MR. JAMES: John James, J-a-m-e-s.

15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

16 MR. JAMES: I live between Faucett and
17 St. Joe.

18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

19 MR. JAMES: I honestly didn't intend to
20 speak tonight.

21 I'm the superintendent of the Mid
22 Buchanan School District, but I've been sitting here
23 listening to people talk about the benefits the school
24 will see from this and I've kind of like to put a light
25 on that if I can.

1 Mid Buchanan School District is a little
2 bit unique in -- I've been doing this for 45 -- I've
3 been in education for 44 years, and I've been a
4 superintendent for 22 of them. And I understand school
5 finance and I understand tax money. I don't pretend to
6 understand high power voltage lines.

7 But schools have three sources of
8 revenue basically, local, state and federal. Federal
9 is based upon free and reduced rates. The average in
10 the state of Missouri is about 50% free and reduced and
11 I think St. Joe's is about 60% right now. In the Mid
12 Buchanan District we're at 20%. 20% free and reduced
13 means that we get quite a bit less federal money. We
14 make up for that with local tax money.
15 The patrons in this district have been extremely
16 generous to this school district. In return we try to
17 provide them with an educational program that bolsters
18 their property tax money.

19 We were recently told by a realtor this
20 summer that when they get a listing in the Mid Buchanan
21 School District they automatically list it \$50,000 then
22 the appraisal says it should be because they think they
23 can get that.

24 I'm hearing that we're going to get
25 windfall from this power line. Here's what happens

1 when you put in a power line or a pipeline. We just
2 had two of them put in about three years ago right
3 through the district. During the phase of construction
4 when all that equipment is sitting on your land and all
5 of those tubes for the power and power for this, while
6 that stuffs all sitting on your land and not operating
7 you get property tax money on that stuff. Because the
8 pipeline got delayed and because they parked their
9 equipment behind Love's Truck Stop which is in our
10 district, we got pretty good money from the pipeline
11 for their stuff sitting on our land for a year and a
12 half. That's property tax money.

13 What happens is, as soon as they get it
14 done and they pump a drop of oil through it, or as soon
15 as they get the power lines up and they run a spark of
16 electricity through it there is no more property tax
17 money. What it does it becomes railroad and utility
18 money. Railroad and utility money is just like if a
19 railroad went through there, you don't get property tax
20 on the rails you get railroad and utility money.
21 Railroad and utility money doesn't come in directly to
22 the school district, it comes into the county. And
23 it's distributed throughout the county and based on
24 school population.

25 We have 700 students. St. Joe's has

1 about 20,000, I'm just guessing but in that
2 neighborhood. Which means that the money that that
3 generates after it runs across this district, and I'm
4 not going to talk for or against the project because
5 I'm a public servant and I may have patrons for it and
6 patrons who are against it, but once it's on our land
7 it runs about, as near as I can tell it runs about 70%
8 through Buchanan County within this district.

9 When the railroad and utility money
10 comes into the county and they divide it up by students
11 then St. Joe is going to get about 95% of it and we're
12 going to get about 5% of it forever. If they build
13 right down the middle of St. Joe on Fredrick Street
14 we'd still get 5% and they would get 95%. It doesn't
15 change. Utility money isn't where the line is, it's by
16 county and based on student population.

17 So there's not a big windfall. I'm
18 estimating on what we get from the oil lines and that's
19 -- who knows how accurate that is. That we'll get
20 probably 15 to maybe \$20,000 a year off of the electric
21 lines after they're in here.

22 I don't know what power lines do to
23 property values. I know the patrons in this district
24 believe that it will lower their property values.
25 Property values in this district have risen every

1 quarter in the 13 years I've been here except 2, in the
2 middle of 2008 when we had the recession.

3 Last quarter, I get reports through June
4 and September, December. From June to September the
5 property values in this district went up \$500,000.
6 They always go up everytime I get one. If this causes
7 that trend to reverse the money I will lose in property
8 tax will be far offset the money I will gain in
9 railroad utility money. So there's really no big
10 windfall for having it go through my district.
11 Sorry for keeping you in your seats an extra five
12 minutes but thank you for your time.

13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Ellen
14 Justus.

15 (Witness sworn.)

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
17 and spell your last name.

18 MS. JUSTUS: My name is Ellen Justus,
19 J-u-s-t-u-s.

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

21 MS. JUSTUS: I live north of the school
22 in Buchanan County.

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

24 MS. JUSTUS: I have heard a lot of
25 conversations tonight and all of them have very

1 compelling reasons for being here and for speaking. I
2 don't think there's a person in this audience right now
3 who would not agree that our infrastructure is horribly
4 at risk. Whether it's our transportation, our sewer
5 system, our water system we're dealing on pieces
6 falling apart in every direction that we look.

7 The power grid is a much bigger impact
8 in its failure in the infrastructure. I believe Ted
9 Koppell just recently did a study of the power grid in
10 America and not only are we failing to maintain it but
11 we have huge security risk from intervention because of
12 -- well, we all know what's going on.

13 Anyway the one thing that Ted Koppell
14 said is that we cannot continue to splinter our needs
15 for energy into direct current power lines, into
16 windmills, into solar panels. We need a national
17 energy policy. A federal national energy policy. And
18 that's not something that you guys can do. I mean it's
19 got to come from somewhere. So that we have a
20 consistency and design a consistency in the grid. A
21 consistency on how it's linked together and a
22 consistency in how it is protected.

23 I think that is something that we really
24 need to take into consideration. Go to the 30,000 foot
25 level on this particular topic right here and kind of

1 get an overview bigger than just one direct current
2 power line. It's going to be imperative if we're going
3 to survive as a nation to have that in place, to have
4 it somehow structured so that we can make it function
5 in a way that makes America function well.

6 We're on the cusp of a huge political
7 change in Washington, D.C. and for better or for worse
8 it's a huge change. There are new directors of energy.
9 There are new directors of all the departments in
10 Washington, D.C. I respectfully ask that you take a
11 deep breath and wait a couple of months and let's see
12 where this goes before we splinter off into one more
13 alternative idea that may or may not work. Thank you.

14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.

15 (Witness sworn.)

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
17 and spell your last name.

18 MS. BROWN: Doris Brown, B-r-o-w-n.

19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?

20 MS. BROWN: Randolph County.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

22 MS. BROWN: Thank you all so much for
23 coming and listening to these concerns. I ask that you
24 deny Grain Belt because of the eminent domain. The
25 benefit is so questionable and it does not rise to that

1 great power.

2 The benefits to the environment and the
3 renewable energy that would travel on this line mainly
4 to the East Coast would about to about 1/4 of 1% of the
5 total annual electricity in the United States. So if
6 you want to approach 5% you can see how many of these
7 lines they would have to have.

8 This line would be about 40% wind
9 because of the nature of wind. And that idle capacity
10 could carry more fossil fuel than wind. There's
11 natural gas. One of the latest investors in Grain Belt
12 is a natural gas fracer. And there is a coal plant and
13 then there was another coal plant that was almost
14 approved a couple of years ago that was very close to
15 this. So it's very possible it could carry more fossil
16 fuels.

17 Talking about money. They like to talk
18 about what they would pay the landowners. I'd like to
19 know what their bonuses will be if this goes through.

20 Property taxes can be protested. A lot
21 of business do that. This company is going to have at
22 least a start up cost and they haven't had any income
23 and they can protest on the income method. And I
24 believe that they can petition the legislature for
25 exemption.

1 The Superintendent did an excellent and
2 I was going to address that and how it works. In
3 Randolph County our Assessor broke it down to per
4 student which is \$143 according to DESE, the total per
5 student is about \$10,000. 1 1/2% again is not
6 significant number and the state aid. I don't know how
7 that formula works, but it might change that as well.

8 The routing on this goes through the
9 Amish country, our neighbors. They spoke. Some of
10 them spoke at some of these hearings and that is so
11 significant. They have a concern about the health. No
12 line this big has been built near so many children. So
13 we really don't know what it will do. So again, thank
14 you all for coming. And I appreciate the time. Thank
15 you.

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. And that
17 will be 649.

18 (Exhibit No. 49 marked for identification.)

19 (Witness sworn.)

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
21 and spell your last name.

22 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Dennis Johnson,
23 J-o-h-n-s-o-n.

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

25 MR. JOHNSON: St. Joseph, Missouri.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

2 MR. JOHNSON: I was encouraged here
3 tonight to speak to the Public Service Commission on
4 behalf of the fire department. As Fire Chief of the
5 Department I do speak for the department in a lot ways.

6 I learned tonight that the fire
7 protection district stands to benefit perhaps
8 financially if this project goes through so it will be
9 a little bit self serving if I stood up here and tried
10 to promote the line strictly from that standpoint.

11 Funding for the fire protection district
12 is a trust between we the people and the fire board
13 that we elect. And I won't tread on that, I won't
14 speak for the fire department tonight.

15 However I was born and raised on a dairy
16 farm about a half a mile away from here. Two years ago
17 our farm was designated as a century farm in the state
18 of Missouri. Very proud of that fact.

19 Understand the sacrifices it takes for
20 people to hold on to their property sometimes and I
21 understand the love of dirt, if you will. These are
22 not unreasonable people. They will make sacrifices if
23 you tell them and prove to them that there's project
24 that you're working on. You have failed to prove to
25 them the benefits. Just that simple. We the people

1 have not been listened to. Thank you for your time.

2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
5 and spell your last name.

6 MR. RACCUGLIA: My name is Dave
7 Raccuglia, R-a-c-c-u-g-l-i-a.

8 And I've listened to a lot of testimony
9 tonight and I've listened to a number of people that
10 are not a part of this community unless they have an
11 investment in maybe property or land. But I've heard
12 many men come to this podium and they talked about
13 jobs, and the kind of jobs that it's going to create
14 for their businesses.

15 And I'm a business owner in Overland
16 Park, Kansas. My brother-in-law and sister-in-law are
17 business owners in North Kansas City. And we are all
18 about jobs. I mean there's no two ways about it. And
19 I want to provide as many jobs as I can in my business
20 and I'm sure that these other gentlemen do, too.

21 But I guess I'll go back to the one
22 point that there hasn't been much said about and that
23 is, I'm a city slicker. I've never worked on a farm.
24 I did have the privilege of being married to my wife
25 for 43 years that I had an opportunity of being a part

1 of watching my inlaws work as hard as they did. And
2 some of their neighbors and how hard they had to work
3 to hold on to what they had and that was their farms.
4 Some of which they purchased and some of which they had
5 handed down to them from their fathers and their
6 mothers.

7 But I think we've lost sight of how
8 personable it is to them. They have jobs in --
9 associated with their farms. And by this project going
10 through, directly through -- now this is going through
11 directly through my wife's farm that was left to her.
12 It's going to impact that farm pretty dramatically.

13 Now I don't know what the law says as
14 far as the person that will farm that land for us, but
15 I'm sure it will. It will impact him. Coming out and
16 work -- when the project starts and coming across the
17 project and I'm sure as the project goes on it will
18 impact him. And I don't know what the loss will be in
19 terms of the amount of income that will come off of
20 that. I do know that if you look at those numbers
21 which are going to be reimbursed to the property owner,
22 it looks like a penitence to me because you're giving X
23 number of dollars for one or two structures or how many
24 structure the impact of coming through that land.

25 What about the lost income not only to

1 the landowner but also to the farmer that is working
2 that land? I think there needs to be a little bit more
3 concern for all these people here that are going to be
4 impacted on their farms by this project. And not just
5 be a cut and dry, okay, we're going -- we're going to
6 gain -- we're going to gain X number of dollars for the
7 community and for the schools. We don't even know what
8 those real numbers are.

9 But I think we need to be a little bit
10 more -- have a little bit more empathy to the losses
11 that these people are going to realize with their
12 properties and with their farms and with what was left
13 to them by their parents and what they want to leave to
14 their children and to their grandchildren. It's not
15 all about money.

16 I run a small business and I tell my
17 employees, it's not all about money. It is not all
18 about money. It's what you do and how you impact
19 others and how you provide for others and how you
20 affect the lives of others.

21 And I think this is going -- I think
22 this project for what I've seen of it and I don't know
23 all the details, I do know that it's going to impact
24 the lives of many people here tonight.

25 And so I stand here tonight and I

1 support -- I am against this project and I support each
2 one of them here. And I will continue to support them.
3 And if the project goes forward, from what I've heard,
4 it looks like we got lost in a bureaucracy of political
5 bias again. Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN HALL: One of the witnesses
7 earlier tonight mentioned that this was a heart
8 wrenching decision for us, and it is, it is a heart
9 wrenching decision for us. There are a lot of very,
10 very difficult and complex issues related to this case.
11 There are a lot of emotions on both sides of this case.
12 What I appreciate from you is your heartfelt sincere
13 sentiments that were expressed tonight. You came
14 through and you put a human face on some difficult
15 issues. I thank you. Good night.

16 (Hearing adjourned at 9:19 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) SS:
COUNTY OF BUCHANAN)

I, Albert Narvaez, a certified court reporter within and for the State of Missouri, certify that the foregoing proceeding was taken by me in stenotype and thereafter transcribed by computer and is a true and correct transcript of the foregoing proceeding; that the foregoing proceeding was taken on December 13, 2016, at Mid Buchanan High School, Faucett, Missouri; that I am not an attorney for nor relative of either party, or otherwise interested in this action.

Witness my hand and seal of office on the 30th day of December 2016.



Albert Narvaez, CCR
For the State of Missouri

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