

Mr. Chairman, members of the commission,

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Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you today.

Missouri Public
Service Commission

My name is Bruce Burdick and I live in Clinton County. The closest the Grain Belt transmission line will physically come to my property is just over two miles. The issue I would like to address with you today is not a physical location issue but a property rights issue which may affect future use of property throughout the state. That issue is the use of eminent domain to secure property for a private entities benefit. There is no doubt that eminent domain has a place in securing property in the public sector for the ultimate goal of value to all stakeholders throughout Missouri. But the use of eminent domain for private benefit has the potential to open a Pandoras box for unfettered use by large private corporations against individual landowners. What measures are in place to prevent or regulate this use? Would this use reduce the bargaining power of an individual on the use of his property and the ultimate value of his property? Your decision

Exhibit 7
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approval of the grain belt line has a major bearing on the future of individual property rights beyond the use of a transmission line spanning across Missouri.

Less than ten miles to the west of Cameron in DeKalb County is an example of unfettered development and disregard for local property owners. That example involves development of ninety- seven wind turbines scattered throughout DeKalb County for electrical generation. Some of those turbine locations have been developed through a weak and disputed township zoning process. Many turbines were constructed in townships where absolutely no zoning rules are in place. Unfortunately, adjacent landowners have absolutely no recourse on the placement of those turbines. Essentially, a positive ruling on the use of eminent domain by a private company through this commission has the potential to allow this corporation as well as others to develop these projects at will. All in the name of eminent domain.

When you leave this meeting and travel west to Faucett on Highway 36, as you pass the turbines ask yourself whether this type of development is what we need or more importantly want in our state. I certainly do not.

You have made a ruling in the past on this application which upholds the rights of the individual landowners. Now the grain belt sponsors have come back to supposedly sweeten the pot for Missouri. Jobs, school taxes, improved infrastructures, reduced electrical costs. Funny, I have heard these same claims from the wind turbine developers. Look closely and you will see little substantial long term benefits. Promises, promises.

Stick to your previous ruling. It was a good one and the right one for the people of Missouri.

Ben Burish