

Exhibit No. 303
Issues: Position of Cattlemen's Assoc.
And Dairy Association
Witness: John Cauthorn
Type of Exhibit: Rebuttal
Sponsoring Party: MO Landowners
Alliance
Case No.: EA-2016-0358
Date Testimony Prepared: Dec, 2016

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE NO. EA-2016-0358

REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF

JOHN CAUTHORN

ON BEHALF OF

MISSOURI LANDOWNERS ALLIANCE

January 24, 2017

1 **Q. Please state your name.**

2 A. John Cauthorn

3 **Q. On whose behalf are you testifying?**

4 A. I am testifying for the Missouri Cattlemen's Association (MCA) and the
5 Missouri Dairy Association (MDA), on behalf of the Missouri Landowners Alliance.

6 **Q. Please describe the MCA and the MDA.**

7 A. MCA is a grass roots association of cattle producers formed to provide
8 cattlemen a voice at the state and local level with 82 county affiliates throughout the
9 state. MDA is a group of producers formed to represent and protect the dairy industry in
10 the state.

11 **Q. What is your position with the MCA?**

12 A. I am past president of MCA and now serve on their policy and legislative
13 affairs committee.

14 **Q. How many members does the MCA have?**

15 A. 5,000 due paying members.

16 **Q. How many members dos the MDA have?**

17 A. 1,800 members throughout the state.

18 **Q. Are you familiar with the operation of ranches and dairy farms in**
19 **Missouri?**

20 A. Yes, for the last 50 years I have been raising and feeding cattle in and outside
21 the state of Mo. I have also been a joint-owner in a dairy operation.

22 **Q. Would the transmission line proposed by Grain Belt Express have any**
23 **impacts on dairy farming and ranching practices in Missouri?**

24 A. Yes, the MCA strongly opposes granting eminent domain to the company for
25 the proposed electrical transmission line which it plans to build across northern Missouri.
26 The association has long been a defender of property rights whether it involved cases of
27 eminent domain or regulatory abuse. The benefits claimed by the developers do not
28 justify the granting of eminent domain to a privately owned company.

29 Furthermore, the use of eminent domain at any time is of great concern to the
30 number one industry in our state - Agriculture. MCA has policy that has been in effect
31 for more than ten years stating that eminent domain should absolutely not be used to take
32 property for profit and that an easement cannot be sold to another entity without due
33 process.

34 In a document prepared by Grain Belt Clean Line, LLC, titled "Transmission Line
35 Easement Agreement," it states that the rights under the easement agreement may be sold,
36 assigned, mortgaged, or leased in whole or in part by Grain Belt at any time. This
37 proposal is in direct conflict with MCA's policy.

38 The impact of this on the cattle industry boils down to a pervasive invasion of
39 private property rights. The United States has the smallest beef cowherd we have seen
40 since 1962 and we absolutely must secure the rights of private property owners in order
41 to ensure family farms remain in business in this state and across the country.

42 Allowing a privately held company to magically operate as a public utility flies in
43 the face of everything we stand for as a state and as a nation. Allowing this for profit
44 company to engage in a land grab in Missouri is blatantly wrong and sets a precedent for
45 other privately owned companies to do the same thing. Where would it stop? How much

46 land currently in agricultural production has to go away before we put an end to this?

47 The concerns in rural America and within the cattle sector are real.

48 We stand firmly in support of protecting our private property rights. If a
49 landowner wants to enter into a partnership with this company or any other company,
50 then that is their right. However, landowners should not be forced to give up their
51 property. That is absurd.

52 Cattlemen like myself also have concerns about the unknown. What don't we
53 know about this project. There are serious concerns about how these lines will impact the
54 health and well-being of our cattle; not to mention our families. There is little to no
55 research that gives us any level of certainty that these lines are safe for livestock or
56 people.

57 **Q. Does this complete your testimony?**

58 A. Yes, it does.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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) Case No. EA-2016-0358
Current Transmission Line and an Associated Converter)
Station Providing an interconnection on the Maywood-)
Montgomery 345 kV Transmission Line)

Affidavit of John Cauthorn

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) SS
COUNTY OF AUDRAIN)

John Cauthorn, being first duly sworn on oath states:

1. My name is John Cauthorn.
2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my testimony submitted to the Missouri Public Service Commission.
3. I hereby swear and affirm that my answers contained in the attached testimony to the questions therein asked are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.


John Cauthorn

Subscribed and sworn before me this 30 day of December, 2016



JENNIFER FREY
My Commission Expires
July 10, 2019
Audrain County
Commission #15111612


Notary Public