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Witness: Patricia Stemme
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Sponsoring Party: Intervenors-Patricia
and David Stemme
File No.: EA-2023-0017
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MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FILE NO.

EA-2023-0017

INTERVENOR REBUTTAL TESTIMONY

OF

PATRICIA STEMME

ON

BEHALF OF

INTERVENORS-PATRICIA AND DAVID STEMME

April 18, 2023

Table of Contents

I.	Introduction	1
II.	The primary purpose for the Grain Belt Express Project is economic development, as defined in section 523.271, RSMo.	1
III.	The agricultural property owned by Intervenors-Patricia and David Stemme is “Farmland” as defined by section 523.286, RSMo.	8
IV.	Conclusion	9

1 I. INTRODUCTION

2 Q. Please state your name, address, and interest in this case.

3 A. My name is Patricia Stemme. My address is 12601 E. Remie Road,
4 Centralia, Missouri 65240. I, along with my husband David, are Intervenors in this
5 matter. My husband and I own 2,260 acres of productive farmland located in Audrain
6 County and Callaway County. We have received notice that the Grain Belt Express
7 project will cross a portion of our property. We are concerned about the loss of use of
8 our property, decreased property values, and aesthetic impacts of the Grain Belt Express
9 project.

10 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

11 A. The purpose of my testimony is to show, based on the prior statements
12 made by Invenergy, LLC, Grain Belt Express, LLC, and their consultants (collectively
13 “Invenergy, LLC”), that the Grain Belt Express project is an “economic development”
14 project.

15 II. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE FOF THE GRAIN BELT EXPRESS PROJECT
16 IS “ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,” AS DEFINED IN SECTION 523.271, RSMO.

17 Q. How is the term “economic development” defined in section 523.271,
18 RSMo?

19 A. Section 523.271, RSMo defines the term “economic development” as “a use
20 of a specific piece of property or properties which would provide an increase in the tax
21 base, tax revenues, employment, and general economic health, and does not include the

22 elimination of blighted, substandard, or unsanitary conditions, or conditions rendering
23 the property or its surrounding area a conservation area as defined in section 99.805.”

24 **Q. In its filings in Filing EA-2023-0017, has Invenergy, LLC stated the**
25 **primary purpose for the Grain Belt Express project?**

26 A. Yes. The “primary objective” of the Grain Belt Express project is “to
27 transport clean, reliable, low-cost electricity from renewable generation to be built in
28 southwestern Kansas, which has potential for abundant, high-capacity factor wind and
29 solar resources, to the electricity markets in Missouri and Illinois and other states located
30 within or adjacent to the MISO and PJM grids.” *Direct Testimony of Shashank Sane, page*
31 *7, lines 14 - 18.*¹

32 **Q. In its filings in Filing EA-2023-0017, has Invenergy, LLC stated the**
33 **Grain Belt Express project is needed for economic reasons?**

34 A. Yes. Invenergy, LLC stated,

35 III. THE AMENDED PROJECT IS NEEDED ON AN ECONOMIC BASIS

36 Q. Please explain why the requested amendments to the
37 Certificated Project are necessary on an economic basis.

38 A. Just as with the Certificated Project, the Amended Project will:

39 (a) allow large amounts of renewable energy from southwestern Kansas to
40 access the MISO markets and compete to serve customer load; (b) support
41 development of wind and solar facilities where the resources are such that

¹ Shashank Sane, Executive Vice President of Transmission, Invenergy LLC, One South Wacker Drive, Suite 1800, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

42 electricity can be generated at significantly lower cost than are currently
43 available in Missouri; (c) enable low-cost renewable energy to access the
44 Missouri electricity markets and reduce wholesale and retail electric prices;
45 and (d) help customers in Missouri and surrounding states meet their
46 various renewable energy and carbon reduction standards. . . .

47 *Direct Testimony of Shashank Sane, page 10, lines 8 - 17.*

48 **Q. In its filings in Filing EA-2023-0017, has Invenergy, LLC stated that**
49 **major businesses, industries, and municipalities in Missouri have expressed**
50 **interested in buying electricity from the Grain Belt Express project?**

51 A. Yes. Invenergy, LLC has stated,

52 There are a number of businesses operating in Missouri that have
53 expressed interest in buying renewable power. As a non-exhaustive list, the
54 following companies with Missouri footprints are members of the Clean
55 Energy Buyers Association and have made certain commitments to use
56 renewable energy: 3M, Anheuser-Busch Companies, LLC, Burns &
57 McDonnell, The Boeing Company, Cargill, Emerson, Dow, General Mills,
58 Google LLC, GM, Ikea, Meta Platforms, Inc., Nestlé USA, Proctor & Gamble,
59 T-Mobile, Occidental Petroleum Corporation, Unilever and Walmart,
60 among others. A number of Missouri municipal governments, including
61 Kansas City, St. Louis City, Columbia and University City, have also made
62 pledges to increase use of renewable energy in city facilities.

63 *Direct Testimony of Shashank Sane, page 15, lines 6 - 14.*

64 **Q. In its filings in Filing EA-2023-0017, has Invenergy, LLC identified its**
65 **mission?**

66 A. Yes. Invenergy, LLC stated, “Invenergy Transmission’s mission is to
67 construct and operate high voltage transmission lines and associated facilities for the
68 purpose of connecting the best renewable resources in the U.S. and delivering their
69 output to load and population centers that have an increasing demand for electricity
70 produced from renewable resources.” *Direct Testimony of Aaron White, page 8, lines 8 -*
71 *11.*²

72 **Q. In its filings in Filing EA-2023-0017, has Invenergy, LLC provided**
73 **statistics purportedly showing the employment impacts of construction jobs for**
74 **each county affected by the Grain Belt Express project?**

75 A. Yes. Invenergy, LLC stated,
76 The construction job figures are significant, totaling 247 for Audrain
77 County, 318 for Buchanan County, 243 for Caldwell County, 66 for
78 Callaway County, 303 for Carroll County, 362 for Chariton County, 226 for
79 Clinton County, 804 for Monroe County, 356 for Ralls County, and 284 for
80 Randolph County. The statewide construction job figure for Missouri is
81 estimated at 5,747. In addition to the jobs during construction, the Project
82 will also support permanent positions. The long-term jobs supported are
83 estimated to be 10.6 for Audrain County, 3.8 for Buchanan County, 1.9 for

² Aaron White. Senior Transmission Engineering Manager. Invenergy LLC, One South Wacker Drive, Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60606.

84 Caldwell County, .3 for Callaway County, 3.2 for Carroll County, 4.1 for
85 Chariton County, 1.4 for Clinton County, 16.2 for Monroe County, 2.0 for
86 Ralls County, and 2.6 for Randolph County. The total long-term Project
87 related job figure for Missouri is 104.4.

88 *Direct Testimony of Dr. David Loomis, page 7, line 22 - page 8, line 8.*³

89 **Q. In its filings in Filing EA-2023-0017, has Invenergy, LLC provided**
90 **information relating to the purported earning impact and income taxes generated**
91 **from wages paid during construction of the Grain Belt Express project?**

92 A. Yes. Invenergy, LLC stated, “The total earning impact from the Project for
93 Missouri is \$586,118,331 for construction and \$8,113,077 for operations. The State will
94 also benefit from increased income tax generation from wages paid during construction
95 in Missouri and during the operation phase of the Project.” *Direct Testimony of Dr. David*
96 *Loomis, page 8, lines 10 - 13.*

97 **Q. In its filings in Filing EA-2023-0017, has Invenergy, LLC provided**
98 **information relating to the purported property taxes to be paid from the Grain Belt**
99 **Express project?**

100 A. Yes. Invenergy, LLC stated, “First full-year property taxes of \$13.9 million
101 and \$183.2 million during the first 20 years of operation.” *Direct Testimony of Dr. David*
102 *Loomis, Schedule DL-2, page 6.*

³ Dr. David G. Loomis, Ph.D., President, Strategic Economic Research, LLC, Professor of Economics at Illinois State University, Co-Founder of the Center for Renewable Energy, and Executive Director of the Institute for Regulatory Policy Studies, 2705 Kolby Court, Bloomington, IL 61704.

103 **Q. In its filings in Filing EA-2023-0017, has Invenergy, LLC provided**
104 **information relating to the purported overall economic impacts for each county**
105 **affected by the Grain Belt Express project?**

106 A. Yes. Invenergy, LLC stated,
107 The new local output during construction total over \$40 million for
108 Audrain County, over \$51.8 million for Buchanan County, over \$42.1
109 million for Caldwell County, over \$11.3 million for Callaway County, over
110 \$50.2 million for Carroll County, over \$59.9 million for Chariton County,
111 over \$38.1 million for Clinton County, over \$145 million for Monroe
112 County, over \$57.3 million for Ralls County, over \$47.4 million for
113 Randolph County, and over \$986 million for the State of Missouri. The
114 new local long term earnings total over \$678 thousand for Audrain County,
115 over \$817 thousand for Buchanan County, over \$372 thousand for
116 Caldwell County, over \$24.6 thousand for Callaway County, over \$751
117 thousand for Carroll County, over \$797 thousand for Chariton County,
118 over \$190 thousand for Clinton County, over \$3.5 million for Monroe
119 County, over \$151 thousand for Ralls County, over \$655 thousand for
120 Randolph County, and over \$15.8 million for the State of Missouri.

121 *Direct Testimony of Dr. David Loomis, Schedule DL-2, page 18.*

122 **Q. Has Invenergy, LLC made any other statements showing the purpose**
123 **of the Grain Belt Express project is economic development?**

124 A. Yes. The Grain Belt Express website states, *inter alia*,

125 -- "\$20 BILLION In new energy infrastructure investment enabled;"

126 -- "22,300 DIRECT JOBS Created during construction of the line and enabled
127 generation;"

128 -- "Beyond delivering billions of dollars in energy cost savings, Grain Belt
129 Express will generate billions more in economic activity regionally, create thousands of
130 jobs and provide millions of dollars in new, local tax revenue for communities along the
131 route;"

132 -- "\$1.3 BILLION In economic activity during construction for Missouri;"

133 -- "This transmission line is one of the largest economic development projects
134 in the entire state and will help power our towns, while saving every family and business
135 in our communities a total of more than \$12.8 million annually on our electric bills.
136 Missouri Public Utilities Alliance;"

137 -- "Grain Belt Express's additional commitment to deliver more power to
138 Missouri could not have come at a better time for businesses in our region who are
139 facing increased risk for outages and higher energy bills due to more demand and less
140 energy production. Ray McCarty, Associated Industries of Missouri;" and

141 -- "In Chariton County alone, the Grain Belt Express project will add \$1.3
142 million in sales and property taxes during construction and \$8.7 million in property
143 taxes... It will benefit citizens and promote a brighter future for our students and the
144 students of all the school districts that stand to benefit in counties along the route.
145 Joshua Shoemaker, Keytesville, MO Superintendent."

146 *Source: <https://grainbeltexpress.com/state-updates/missouri-2/> (accessed March 22, 2023).*

147 Q. Based on its filings in Filing EA-2023-2017 and statements posted on
148 the Grain Belt Express website, has Invenergy, LLC provided information
149 concerning the impacts of the Grain Belt Express project on “the tax base, tax
150 revenues, employment, and general economic health?”

151 A. Yes. As shown by the foregoing referenced statements, Invenergy, LLC has
152 provided information addressing the effects of the Grain Belt Express project on the tax
153 base, tax revenues, employment, and general economic health in the counties impacted
154 by the project and for the State of Missouri.

155 III. The Agricultural Property Owned by Intervenors-Patricia
156 and David Stemme is “Farmland” as Defined by Section 523.286, RSMo

157 Q. In any of its filings in Filing EA-2023-0017, has Invenergy, LLC
158 provided any information relating to “the elimination of blighted, substandard, or
159 unsanitary conditions?”

160 A. No, based on my review of the filings in this matter no such information
161 has been provided.

162 Q. In any of its filings in Filing EA-2023-0017, has Invenergy, LLC
163 provided any information relating to “the elimination of . . . conditions rendering
164 the property or its surrounding area a conservation area as defined in section
165 99.805.”

166 A. No, based on my review of the filings in this matter no such information
167 has been provided.

168 Q. How is “farmland” defined in section 523.286, RSMo?

169 A. “Farmland” is defined as “all real property classified as forest cropland or
170 all real property used for agricultural purposes and devoted primarily to the raising and
171 harvesting of crops; to the feeding, breeding, and management of livestock which shall
172 include breeding and boarding of horses; to dairy operations, or to any combination
173 thereof; and buildings and structures customarily associated with farming, agricultural,
174 and horticultural uses. ‘Farmland’ shall also include land devoted to and qualifying for
175 payments or other compensation under a soil conservation or agricultural assistance
176 program under an agreement with an agency of the federal government.”

177 **Q. Is your agricultural property located in Audrain and Callaway County**
178 **considered “farmland” as defined in section 523.286, RSMo?**

179 A. Yes.

180 **IV. CONCLUSION**

181 **Q. If Grain Belt Express, LLC has the authority to exercise eminent**
182 **domain, what is your understanding whether such eminent domain authority**
183 **extends to projects: (i) whose primary purpose is primarily economic development,**
184 **or (ii) affects “farmland?”**

185 A. It is my understanding that sections 523.271 and 523.286, RSMo, when
186 read together, prohibit any condemning authority from using eminent domain to acquire
187 private property for economic development purposes unless there is a finding that the

188 property is blighted, substandard, or unsanitary, and that “farmland” cannot be
189 considered to be blighted.⁴

190 **Q. Are you requesting the Public Service Commission to take any action?**

191 A. Yes. We are asking the PSC to deny the application to amend the previous
192 Certificate of Convenience and Necessity, but if such application is granted, then
193 consider imposing a condition in any amended Certificate of Convenience and Necessity
194 that may be issued for this project.

195 **Q. What is the proposed condition you are requesting?**

196 A. That Grain Belt Express, LLC is required to comply with section 523.271,
197 RSMo in connection with the routing, property acquisition, and construction of the
198 project.

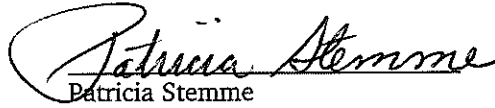
⁴ See Dale A. Whitman, *Eminent Domain Reform in Missouri: A Legislative Memoir*, 71 Mo. L. Rev. 721, 765 (Summer 2006) (“Aside from barring use of eminent domain for exclusively economic development purposes - a result on which there was very wide consensus - the General Assembly left it largely to the local political process to distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate takings. This may well be the best place for such decisions, at least in the sense that when a taking is authorized that offends local sensibilities broadly, the political repercussions on the decision-makers are apt to be most immediate and direct”).

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Grain Belt)
Express LLC for an Amendment to its Certificate)
of Convenience and Necessity Authorizing it to)
Construct, Own, Operate, Control, Manage, and) File No. EA-2023-0017
Maintain a High Voltage, Direct Current)
Transmission Line and Associated Converter)
Station)

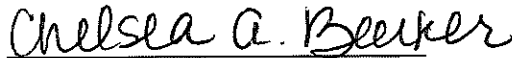
AFFIDAVIT OF PATRICIA STEMME

1. My name is Patricia Stemme. I am an Intervenor in this matter. My address is 12601 E. Remie Road, Centralia, Missouri 65240.
2. I have read my testimony and the statements contained therein are true and correct to the best of my information, knowledge, and belief.
3. Under penalty of perjury, I declare that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.


Patricia Stemme

State of Missouri)
County of Audrain)

Before me, the undersigned Notary Public, on this 21 day of March 2023, personally appeared Patricia Stemme, a person known to me, who acknowledged under oath that the foregoing was true and correct to the best of her personal knowledge and belief.


Notary Public

