

**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)
Current Transmission Line and an Associated Converter)
Station Providing an Interconnection on the Maywood -)
Montgomery 345 kV Transmission Line.)

Case No. EA-2014-0207

**UNITED FOR MISSOURI’S STATEMENT OF SUPPORT
FOR PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

COMES NOW United for Missouri (“UFM”) and for its Statement of Support for Prehearing Conference and Local Public Hearings states as follows:

1. On March 26, 2014, Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC (“Grain Belt”) filed an Application with the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) requesting a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (“CCN”) to construct a high-voltage DC line across northern Missouri.

2. On March 27, 2014, the Commission directed the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”) to file a recommendation regarding Grain Belt’s Application by May 30, 2014.

3. On May 12, 2014, Eastern Missouri Landowners Alliance d/b/a Show Me Concerned Landowners (“Show Me”), filed a Motion for a pre-hearing conference in this case. UFM supports Show Me’s Motion.

4. As Show Me states, the Grain Belt proposal is the first of its kind in Missouri. Grain Belt itself has taken the position that, “Respondents’ [Grain Belt’s] website and its statements in the media clearly address public policy issues facing Missouri and the entire country regarding electric transmission infrastructure, wind generation, and renewable energy

standards. Such ‘speech on matters of public concern . . . is at the heart of the First Amendment’s protection.’” [citation omitted] See Respondents’ Reply to Answer of Missouri Landowners Alliance to Motion to Dismiss, Case No. EC-2014-0251, pp. 9, 10. As the Commission is well aware, the Respondents’ website and its statements in the media address the very same issues that will be addressed by this Commission. Therefore, UFM agrees with Show Me on the import of this case. Such public policy issues require the procedural components that Show Me requests.

5. For this reason, UFM supports Show Me’s request for a prehearing conference to propose a procedural schedule that will allow these important issues to be fully discussed.

6. For this same reason, UFM supports Show Me’s request for local public hearings in the affected areas along Grain Belt’s proposed line.

WHEREFORE, UFM respectfully submits its support for a prehearing conference and local public hearings.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ David C. Linton

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Application to Intervene was sent to all parties of record in File No. EA-2014-0207 via electronic transmission this 15th day of May, 2014.

/s/ David C. Linton