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Clean Line Grain Belt Express

December 13, 2016 - - Cameron, Missouri

Missouri Public
Service Commission

I am Cloyce Coffman, a land owner and resident of southern DeKalb County. I have a Master's degree and a Ph.D. degree in Soils and Crop Production from the University of Missouri and Iowa State University, respectively.

My wife and I own two parcels of farm land totaling 580 acres. One of these farms has been in the family since 1870 (over 4 generations).

Two years ago KCP&L, who had eminent domain privileges, came across both of our farms with their "transmission line". There are 8 support towers on our farms, traversing nearly 1 mile. We experienced first-hand what impact these activities have on the land and crops.

Shortly after this project was begun we found out that this transmission project was to support a "private company" (who is funded by hundreds of millions of our tax dollars called "stimulus funds") in the erection of an industrial wind energy complex near our farm. One of the turbines is only 600 feet from our property line on our neighbor's farm. This will have adverse effects upon what can be done on that part of our farm in the future.

Over these past two years we have learned a great deal about how some private companies operate to achieve their financial goals, especially as it impacts the decisions made by governmental bodies and officials. These governmental officials have been elected or appointed to protect the "health, safety, and general welfare" of the residents and land owners of the jurisdiction in which they serve.

Throughout my life, I have come to realize that "the more I learn the more there is to learn". This fact is true of all issues and circumstances. I say this to emphasize the need to be careful not to allow our decisions to be made on the basis of "emotion" only. I have heard and read many comments relative to the pluses and minuses of wind energy and transmission lines across farm land without the support of in-depth study and thought.

The request by Clean Line Grain Belt Express for the privilege to use "eminent domain" power to transport electric power generated by wind turbines in Kansas, across the state of Missouri, to the eastern part of the U.S. should be "turned down".

Exhibit
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If this request were to be granted, **“What will be the impact of the decision the “Public Services Commission” makes now have upon their future actions?”**

I am very strongly opposed to granting “eminent domain” privilege to any “private” company, such as the Clean Line Grain Belt Express.

Such an action will open the door to many private entities in the future to desire “eminent domain” power to access and use private property for their own personal gain, at the expense of the land owner. It is extremely dangerous to the freedom of the American people when a private owner or foreign company could quickly become the owner/operator of an easement across our farms.

There are many other options to provide for our growing energy needs than to use “wind turbines”, which are very inefficient, expensive, and threatening to the “health, safety, and general welfare” of those who live near them. Those who say otherwise have not done their “homework”, and are basing their opinions on “emotion” only.

I encourage those who think this project proposed to come across Missouri will reduce their electric bills to search out the facts.

Remember, **“Facts do not cease to exist because we choose to ignore them”.**

Thank you for your careful consideration in behalf of the residents of Missouri.