

Missouri Public  
Service Commission  
Testimony to Public Service Commission on 12/14/16

By Russell Pisciotta of Caldwell County, Mo.

EA-2016-0358

- Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission
- I would like to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address the Commission.
- I appreciate and share the environmental concerns of many of Grain Belt's supporters and I personally agree that climate change is very serious.
- However, I am adamantly opposed to the Grain Belt project.
- It is **not** our only option. It is just one man's idea and his company's business plan to profit from the situation.
- Building a 780 mile massive transmission line across three states and thousands of parcels of private, productive farmland is the wrong approach.
  
- Grain Belt would not be the clean energy project the company promotes it as. Due to lack of interest and firm customers, Clean Line is now promoting the line to RTO's as a method to arbitrage power and transport it between regions where it will sell for higher prices. It now states that the line would carry only 60% wind and 40% conventional.
  
- I'd also like to point out that Missouri currently produces, transports and consumes wind energy all without Grain Belt Express. Missouri currently has 458 Mw of wind production capacity, 500 Mw in construction, 300 Mw proposed and more in R and D.



- One viable alternative to Clean Line's plan would be to inject Ks. wind into the local grid rather than transporting most of the power to the North Atlantic states.
- Those states are adjacent to legendary off-shore wind resources with an enormous capacity of 4200 GW, far more than enough to supply **all** of their electricity.
- But only one off-shore wind farm with a capacity of only 30 Mw is just now under construction.
- With such an enormous amount of wind off shore, the Atlantic seaboard clearly does not need Midwest wind.
- We should also develop more solar energy. The cost is falling and the technology is improving. We could produce 40% of our electricity needs on rooftops and canopies built over parking lots without wasting any productive farmland.
- And, natural gas is a low carbon, inexpensive and reliable fuel alternative for new power plants.
  
- However, it is not the Commission's mandate to set the national energy policy.
- The Commission must decide only if Grain Belt is necessary and if Missouri will benefit from it enough to justify the impact on landowners.
- After the hearing in Moberly last Thursday evening, an Amish man came up to me and told me that if the line were built, they will likely have to move. We can only imagine what a monumental task it would require for the Amish to re-locate and rebuild their entire community and start all over again.
  
- Grain Belt is making a lot of unsubstantiated promises and projections, which if they were feasible, I believe our Public Utilities

and/or Associated Electric would have agreed to do business with them.

- Even **if** these promises would materialize, they are quite insignificant when put into perspective.
- For instance, it claims it will drop 500 Mw of power in MISO. Even if all 500 Mw eventually do sell in Missouri, it would meet just 4% of Missouri's total electricity usage.
- Grain Belt is also promising a savings of 10 million dollars to consumers.
- If spread over all households in MJMEUC, it would equate to a savings of only \$28.82 per customer per year.
- The company is also boasting that the project would create 1500 jobs. That equates to just five ten thousandths of the total jobs in Missouri. And, of course most of those jobs **would** be temporary.
- When put into perspective these numbers clearly demonstrate why the project would not be the economic boom for the state that Grain Belt and its supporters make it out to be.
- Besides, it is **not landowners' responsibility to create jobs!!**
- It is asking an awful lot to take a swath of land away from someone simply so they can get a temporary job to build something on it. Something that would be an obstacle and an eyesore for generations to come.
  
- I've noticed many of the business and union reps. in support of the line recognize that Grain Belt is **not** a good deal for landowners and have stated that they feel compassion for the landowners' that would sacrifice if the project is approved.
- My father was a very ethical and good business man. He taught me that a deal is not a good deal unless it is good for each party involved.

- So, I strongly urge the Commission to **deny** Grain Belt as it rightfully did just 17 months ago because it is **not** needed, would **not** significantly benefit Missouri and because it is **not** a good deal for landowners.
- Thank you.