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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

December 8, 2016
Moberly, Missouri
Volume V

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) File No. EA-2016-0358
Voltage Direct Current Transmission)
Line And An Associated Converter)
Station Providing An Interconnection)
On The Maywood-Montgomery 345kv)
Transmission Line.)

JUDGE MICHAEL BUSHMANN, Presiding
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Steven Stoll
Commissioner Scott Rupp

REPORTED BY: Monnie S. Mealy, CCR, CSR, RPR
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A P P E A R A N C E S

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1 PROCEEDINGS

2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Good evening. Let's go
3 on the record. Today is December 8th, 2016. And
4 we're in Moberly, Missouri.

5 The Missouri Public Service Commission has
6 set this time for a local public hearing in the
7 case captioned as In the Matter of the Application
8 of Grain Belt Express Clean Line, LLC, for a
9 Certificate of Convenience & Necessity Authorizing
10 it to Construct, Own, Operate, Control, Manage and
11 Maintain a High Voltage Direct Current Transmission
12 Line and an Associated Converter Station Providing
13 an Interconnection on the Maywood-Montgomery 345 KV
14 Transmission Line. The file number is
15 EA-2015-0357.

16 My name is Michael Bushmann. I'm the
17 Regulatory Law Judge that will be residing over
18 this hearing. With me today is Commissioner Steven
19 Stoll, and Commissioner Scott Rupp who was delayed
20 will be here shortly. He'll be here any minute.

21 Commissioner Stoll, did you want to make
22 any opening remarks?

23 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Yes. Thank you. I
24 just wanted to welcome everybody here, and
25 Commissioner Rupp will be here very shortly. The

1 remaining members of the Commission are traveling
2 one place or another, and they will be in future
3 local public hearings.

4 I just wanted to, again, welcome you, tell
5 you that we are very interested in hearing your --
6 your comments, positive or negative, about the
7 issue before us. And with that, we'll go ahead and
8 get started. So thank you for being here.

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: We'll have Counsel make
10 their entries of appearance. For Grain Belt
11 Express Clean Line, LLC?

12 MR. HARDEN: Joshua Harden.

13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: For Commission Staff?

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams.

15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Office of the Public
16 Counsel?

17 MR. OPITZ: Tim Opitz for the Office of
18 Public Counsel.

19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Missouri Landowners
20 Alliance?

21 MR. AGATHEN: Paul Agathen. And, Judge,
22 for the record, I'm also here representing four
23 other clients.

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. And Show Me
25 Concerned Landowners?

1 MR. LINTON: David Linton.

2 JUDGE BUSHMAN: If any other Intervenors
3 are present, please make your entry of appearance
4 now. I don't see any.

5 For those in the audience, I would like
6 you to please check your phone, make sure that your
7 ringer is turned off so that there's no
8 interruptions.

9 Before taking any testimony, I'd like to
10 provide you with some information about why the
11 Commission is holding this public hearing.

12 The Commission has already scheduled an
13 evidentiary hearing in March of next year to take
14 evidence regarding Grain Belt Express' application,
15 but has also scheduled hearings in each of the
16 counties affected by the transmission line to give
17 members of the public a chance to state their
18 support or their opposition to the to project.
19 That is the purpose of this evening's hearing.

20 For those who would like to provide
21 testimony tonight, I'm going to call the names
22 listed on the sign-up sheet.

23 When I call your name, please come down to
24 the podium. I'll put you under oath and ask you to
25 state your name and where you live, and then you

1 can make your comments to the Commission.

2 The Commission has established some ground
3 rules for this hearing to try and give everyone a
4 chance to testify within a reasonable amount of
5 time.

6 First, you can only testify at one
7 hearing. If you do testify at a hearing and your
8 name appears on the sign-up sheet at a later
9 hearing, you won't be called to testify again.

10 Your testimony is limited to five minutes.
11 I'll have a timer next to me that will help you
12 keep track of time and will give you a warning that
13 your time is up.

14 If you haven't finished your comments when
15 the time expires, you can submit all your comments
16 in writing or by calling the Commission. The
17 Commission Staff is available at the table here at
18 the entrance to give you information on how to do
19 that.

20 You can't donate your time to another
21 witness who runs out of time. Commissioners won't
22 be able to answer any of your questions tonight
23 because they have to remain impartial until after
24 the evidentiary hearing.

25 If you have any questions, please address

1 those to the Commission staff or to the company
2 representatives.

3 My final request is to be plight and
4 courteous to those who are speaking here tonight
5 and to treat them as you would like to be treated.

6 Okay. The first name on the sign-up sheet
7 is Jeffrey Owens. Mr. Owens, can you come forward?
8 Raise your right hand, please.

9 JEFFREY OWENS,
10 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
11 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

12 TESTIMONY OF JEFFREY OWEN

13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: State your name and spell
14 your last name.

15 MR. OWENS: Jeffrey Owens, O-w-e-n-s.

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. And where do you
17 live?

18 MR. OWENS: I have two properties. But
19 Boone County, Missouri.

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. Please go ahead.

21 MR. OWENS: Yeah. So with so many
22 Missourians in the room, I thought I might start
23 off with a comic note just to kind of, you know,
24 relax the mood.

25 Personally, I think we should invest in

1 wind energy. After all, all my other investments
2 seem to be gone with the wind.

3 But on a more serious note, I appreciate
4 the opportunity to enter in comments. I'm airing
5 these comments as a private individual, citizen of
6 the great State of Missouri, the state whose motto
7 is, The public welfare is the supreme -- will be
8 the supreme law of the state, if translating -- if
9 I'm translating correctly from Latin.

10 So let's talk about the public benefit of
11 what is before the Public Service Commission,
12 which, to be clear, all that is under consideration
13 right now is a determination of the need, the need
14 for the Grain Belt Express, not any of these other
15 legal issues that, unfortunately, are rather
16 complicated and other people reasonably have
17 concern about.

18 The plan, at the moment, unfortunately,
19 doesn't include either of my properties. I would
20 -- I would love to have a structure on my property.
21 But the more public benefit to the general public,
22 not those who will directly benefit with, you know,
23 a structure on the property or the line crossing
24 their property would be, No. 1, job creation.

25 I can very closely testify to my own job

1 in clean energy to speak highly of the -- the
2 tremendous number of jobs that are created by
3 building new infrastructure. That's a very timely
4 topic at the moment.

5 No. 2, taxes, the benefit of -- to -- to
6 the -- the local counties. While under
7 construction, for probably about two years,
8 Randolph County, for example, would receive more
9 tax benefit than all that's received currently for
10 the agricultural and some parcels within the
11 County.

12 Afterwards, the tax paying would go to the
13 State, be distributed back out to schools, fire
14 protection districts, 911 ambulance services,
15 township road maintenance.

16 No. 3, lower costs. My understanding of
17 -- and I believe it's true -- is that the current
18 offer is less than avoided fuel costs from, you
19 know, what's currently about 2.77 cents while my
20 understanding is that the current offer for this
21 wind, and there is a customer in Missouri, the
22 Missouri Public Municipal Utilities, that it's less
23 than that. It's little bit over 2 cents. So that
24 seems like a no-brainer to me when we can do all
25 these things and actually pay less.

1 Finally, I'd like to speak to the need for
2 the project. We currently can't get clean wind
3 here in Missouri at that price. We need -- we
4 don't have a way to bring it into the state from
5 out of state.

6 That's one of the things that Grain Belt
7 Express would offer. We in Missouri, we have a
8 renewable portfolio standard that has set some
9 goals that I'm not sure whether the State is
10 currently meeting.

11 This provides an opportunity to help meet
12 those goals. And combined with the solar, which
13 Missouri does have, can provide base load on the
14 grid.

15 Finally, there are other states that have
16 this need, so I -- I would ask that the Missouri
17 Commission consider their needs as well. Thank
18 you.

19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you, sir. Candace
22 Dowlin.

23 CANDACE DOWLIN,
24 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
25 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

1 TESTIMONY OF CANDACE DOWLIN

2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
3 and spell your last name.

4 MS. DOWLIN: Candace, C-a-n-d-a-c-e,
5 Dowlin, D-o-w-l-i-n.

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?

7 MS. DOWLIN: 14622 Route M, like Mike,
8 Madison, Missouri.

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

10 MS. DOWLIN: Thank you, gentlemen, for
11 this opportunity to present before you this evening
12 on comments and for giving us this chance to
13 address you.

14 I don't envy you at all because your
15 position, basically, is kind of between a rock and
16 a hard place. You are considering requests from
17 landowners and from, for lack of a better phrase,
18 big money energy wind power.

19 And I'm not against wind power. We looked
20 into wind power for our farm. I would love to see
21 wind power. But some of the methods in which this
22 is to be procured do give me cause for concern.

23 I am concerned because it seems to me that
24 the area landowners are being asked to provide the
25 opportunity for a company that has already, with

1 two investors, had close to \$90 million invested in
2 this line alone, not in the four lines that they
3 also are building.

4 But they are being asked to shoulder a
5 great deal of the burden with liability issues that
6 have not been addressed.

7 I applaud Grain Belt because they have
8 finally in 2016 came up with a plan to work with
9 the landowners. Because when we testified before
10 this Commission in 2014, nothing was in place and
11 it doesn't look very plausible at first glance.

12 But there are no contingencies in that
13 plan should Grain Belt or Clean Line energy choose
14 to sell this company and the use of those power
15 lines. There are no guarantees that the management
16 of the power line would be maintained in the same
17 way that clean line energy itself has indicated
18 that they will do, whether to a domestic or foreign
19 service provider.

20 Those things give me a great deal of
21 concern, especially the liabilities for my friends
22 and neighbors. I'm not a stakeholder. I'm not a
23 landowner that this will cross, but my community
24 is.

25 And the valuation of the property,

1 according to some studies that have been done, one
2 of which I have with me that I will give you
3 because five minutes is not nearly long enough to
4 talk about this, indicates a property drop or a
5 drop in the value of anywhere from 9 to 10 percent
6 right upfront. Other studies have indicated as
7 much as 25 percent.

8 And because my time is running down, I'm
9 going to hit some highlights here. There are a
10 couple of other things that I'm very concerned
11 about, not just the liability that the landowners
12 would take on, but the issue of -- with all due
13 respect to our environmentalists, the issue of the
14 fact that this line traverses one of the largest
15 migratory water fowl flyways in the Continent.

16 And if I can quote from an article that
17 was published regarding a line that was put in in
18 Canada, granted, but it quotes that, The U.S. Fish
19 and Wildlife Service estimates that close to a
20 175 million birds are killed annually in the United
21 States alone by crashing into overhead power lines.

22 Nothing has been said or addressed in the
23 way of environmental impact statement that I have
24 seen so far published.

25 Additionally, besides price effects and

1 environmental issues, there are, I understand,
2 problems with the co-existence of electrical power
3 lines or pipeline resources.

4 Now, it's great to put the power lines and
5 everything in right-of-way or the same basic
6 right-of-way because you have the, you know,
7 smaller footprint, if you will.

8 But there is evidence that would indicate
9 that that could be a problem. I quote from
10 Criteria for Pipelines Coexisting with Electric
11 Power Lines. And it states, Because of increased
12 opposition to pipeline and power line sites, many
13 future -- I'm sorry. Get it right on that.

14 Co-locating power lines, sharing parallel
15 lines and crossing high voltage power lines
16 right-of-ways may be subject to electrical
17 interferences from electrostatic coupling,
18 electromagnetic conductive -- conductive
19 effects. If the interference is affected or high
20 enough, it may pose a safety hazard to personnel
21 and to the public or may compromise the integrity
22 of the pipeline.

23 Because the increased opposition to the
24 pipeline and power line sites for many future
25 projects propose co -- co-locating high voltage

1 alternate current line, which is DC, and high
2 voltage direct current power lines and pipelines
3 and corridors worsening the effects.

4 And I will provide with you that document.
5 So please -- please, as you consider these things,
6 take some of these things into account because I
7 don't believe that they have been properly
8 addressed, not to mention cost and -- and payment
9 of -- of lines for the usage to basically boil down
10 to providing more funds for those who have invested
11 significant amounts of money.

12 Thank you very much for your time. I'm
13 sorry. I was not able to go further, but I will,
14 if I may approach.

15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Do you have something you
16 want to include along with your testimony? An
17 exhibit, did you say?

18 MS. DOWLIN: That would be basically it.

19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Can you give that to the
20 court reporter, then?

21 MS. DOWLIN: Yes. Thank you.

22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And we'll mark that as
23 Exhibit 33. The next name is Erin Koch.

24 ERIN KOCH,
25 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole

1 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

2 TESTIMONY OF ERIN KOCH

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
4 and spell your last name.

5 MS. KOCH: Erin Koch, K-o-c-h.

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you reside?

7 MS. KOCH: State Highway KK, Clarence,
8 Missouri.

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

10 MS. KOCH: I do my shopping in a community
11 that will be a part of the energy pool receiving
12 power from the Grain Belt Express.

13 I support any effort to reduce the cost of
14 energy on local employers and residents and ask
15 that the Commission please see this as an
16 opportunity for our area for toe economic
17 development with lower or stabilized energy costs.

18 This will help with jobs and et cetera.
19 This is in our state's public interest. Please
20 approve the Grain Belt Express. Thank you.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: John Bondy.

24 JOHN BONDY,

25 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole

1 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

2 TESTIMONY OF JOHN BONDY

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
4 and spell your last name.

5 MR. BONDY: John Bondy, B-o-n-d-y.

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?

7 MR. BONDY: Randolph County.

8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

9 MR. BONDY: Our family and farms are
10 opposed to Grain Belt Express for at least ten
11 reasons. Research shows that globaling wind mills
12 have not proven to be successful in the grid.

13 In Europe, they're already shutting the
14 grid down from the wind mills -- wind generators
15 due to problems in reliability, trying to shut them
16 down because of unreliability issues.

17 Europe is ages ahead of us in this. The
18 wind power is very low, provides, No. 2, only 4
19 percent of energy,

20 No. 3, wind and solar power is up to five
21 times more costly than existing sources of
22 electricity, including coal and nuclear power.

23 No. 4, we currently have reliable power
24 and there are other viable options for energy
25 efficient power that lowers our carbon footprint.

1 However, the need for political
2 politnicity and the selfish interests of posturing
3 for power, this has been a political snafu rather
4 than a real need for our nation.

5 Our current policy makes need to study the
6 holistic picture of energy development, economics
7 and true obstacles keeping it affordable for the
8 American working low income, middle class and
9 farmers.

10 Our politicians have cranked up more and
11 more new energy bills, and these have become
12 burdensome and self-defeating to a system that's
13 already reliable and the most efficient already in
14 the world.

15 No. 5, Current administration's philosophy
16 is to centralize more government power in
17 Washington. This comes with a huge cost of
18 destroying the very foundation of our nation.

19 Grain Belt and its fundraising efforts
20 defeat that purpose already. There are -- I
21 misread that. The huge costs -- their fundraising
22 efforts are a reflection of this corrupt and broken
23 system.

24 No. 6, agriculture in the back bone of
25 America, and, traditionally, was not monetarily

1 driven. This private for profit operation
2 philosophy attacks agricultural integrity.
3 The proposals of financial gain and enticements
4 that allows them to tromp through Missouri farmers
5 land. This is not America.

6 No. 7, Grain Belt, regardless of media
7 publicity, will destroy our precious timberland,
8 wildlife habitat and will rape the natural beauty
9 of Missouri's lands.

10 No. 8, according to the media just this
11 morning, Grain Belt is using marketing tax money
12 for the schools. This may be true. But does the
13 money earned balance out of the fact that many
14 farmers and landowners will have to lower their
15 property values on their farm. The students that
16 the taxes money help are the future owners of our
17 Missouri property.

18 No. 9, the problem is the principle which
19 says that someone that wants to make money for
20 their own pocket and can legally do so through the
21 PSC and tromp across property and deflate the value
22 of the land without the owner really wanting that
23 to happen.

24 No. 10, money and politics are the
25 founding sources for this profit endeavor, and they

1 want to win. Many Missouri residents feel that
2 they're winning, too. Financial enticements are
3 usually short-lived in creating happiness.

4 Look to the future and look to the
5 holistic picture and count all the costs that Grain
6 Belt is not sharing with us. Thank you for
7 listening.

8 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Gary Kribbs.

10 GARY KRIBBS,

11 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
12 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

13 TESTIMONY OF GARY KRIBBS

14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
15 and spell your last name.

16 MR. KRIBBS: My name is Gary. My last
17 name is Kribbs, K-r-i-b-b-s. I live at 3231 County
18 Road 2755, Moberly, Missouri.

19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

20 MR. KRIBBS: I have not a lot of paperwork
21 in front of me, as you can see. I'm going to speak
22 to the issue of how this affects me personally.

23 In 1996, I bought land that they want to
24 traverse. I bought it with a dream, a goal in mind
25 as all these people who have -- oh, well. Who have

1 their --

2 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Hold on. We'll get
3 you a --

4 COMMISSIONER STOLL: I'm also the
5 Technical Assistant.

6 MR. KRIBBS: Will this one work?

7 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Yeah.

8 MR. KRIBBS: I bought this land with a
9 dream in mind, a goal in mind, as did most of the
10 people who have these farms here.

11 My dream, my goal was kind of simple. I
12 wanted a place for my grandchildren and great
13 grandchildren that they could just get away from
14 the hustle and bustle of this world.

15 My wife and I planted 25,000 trees on this
16 land, built a big pond, created a wildlife habitat.
17 We worked our fannies off and spent a lot of money
18 to get where we are today. A lot of sweat and a
19 lot of blood and a lot of tears went into this land
20 and is still going into it.

21 They want to condemn it and take it away.
22 Obviously, I'm avidly opposed to that. When we
23 first built our fences, I went and took my
24 granddaughter -- one of my granddaughters through
25 the gate the first time.

1 She turned around -- and she was 5 years
2 old. She turned around and looked at me and said,
3 Papa, why are you doing this? Now, understand,
4 this child is an honor student.

5 I though, well, maybe I better answer her.
6 About that time, a deer ran in front of us, her
7 eyes big as silver dollars, and I said, Well,
8 that's one reason. But I want to you answer a
9 question for me.

10 And she said, Okay. I said, Do you ever
11 have a time you don't want to listen to grandma and
12 you don't want to listen grandpa, you don't want to
13 listen to mom and you don't want to listen to dad?

14 She flashed her head around to her dad
15 real quick, and her dad, and I said, Your daddy
16 know what's I'm asking. You can go ahead and
17 answer me.

18 And she tucked her little head down and
19 nodded real quick and she said uh-huh. Well, the
20 reason that we were building this was for her and
21 we were building it for her kids and for that
22 wildlife.

23 She looked at me and smiled real big at 5
24 years old, and she said, I like that. I really
25 like that. Nothing there has changed. We're still

1 working that place. We're still hoping that the
2 Public Service Commission can see that this is not
3 needed.

4 There's going to be, obviously, a lot of
5 people here today and in the future who are going
6 to tell you that we need it. We don't. Missouri's
7 pretty good about taking care of its own.

8 They're going to tell you that they're
9 going to pay us. They're not. They're going to
10 tell you that it's clean energy. Don't bet on
11 that. Wind doesn't blow all the time. And when it
12 doesn't, they've got to supplement it somehow to
13 pay for it.

14 There are a lot of issues going with this
15 line that over the next few weeks I'm sure you're
16 going to hear about all of them. But it still
17 boils down to how many people out here who are
18 against this line are having their dreams broken
19 apart by people who are all into it for the money.

20 I'm not into this land for the money.
21 Some of them have to make a living. That's
22 understandable. But this is a piece of my dream.
23 A hundred acres that they have to destroy.

24 I'm obviously avidly opposed to Grain
25 Belt. With that, I thank you gentlemen.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: James Lee.

2 JAMES LEE,

3 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
4 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

5 TESTIMONY OF JAMES LEE

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
7 and spell your last name.

8 MR. LEE: James Lee, L-e-e.

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?

10 MR. LEE: 322 East Singleton, Centralia,
11 Missouri.

12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

13 MR. LEE: Commissioners, I am the Mayor
14 Pro Tem for the City of Centralia, Missouri, and I
15 am here to speak in support of the application by
16 Grain Belt Express Clean Line, LLC, for a
17 Certificate of Convenience & Necessity to build the
18 DC power line.

19 I'm here -- Tim Griffy would like to be
20 here, but he is out of town as part of his job as
21 an employee of the Missouri National Guard.

22 I want to start by thanking you for your
23 time and patience and dedication in holding these
24 public hearings. As an Alderman, I do have some
25 idea of the burden of deciding an issue of such

1 importance to the state between the good people who
2 are opposing to allow Clean Line on their property
3 and those of us good people who wish to bring
4 inexpensive wind energy and economic development to
5 the citizens of Missouri.

6 I support the DC power line because of the
7 benefits to my city; One, inexpensive electrical
8 power; two, economic development. And the addition
9 of the renewable energy to our purchase power
10 portfolio.

11 Inexpensive power is very important to
12 Centralia and our citizens owned municipal --
13 utility -- municipal utility. We just entered into
14 an agreement to purchase power for just over \$34 a
15 megawatt until the year 2020.

16 If Clean Line is allowed to build this
17 power line, we would be able to purchase power for
18 around \$25 per megawatt hour or even possibly
19 lower. The savings to our citizens and businesses
20 would be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars
21 over the next 15 years if we just purchased a 2
22 megawatt block.

23 In addition to inexpensive power, Hubbell
24 Power Systems located in Centralia is a strategic
25 partner in the Clean Line project, and it has been

1 estimated that parts manufactured at Hubbell add
2 about 50 good paying jobs if this application is
3 approved.

4 Like any public official, I am in support
5 of bringing good jobs to Boone County. Boone
6 County's is the largest manufacturer and the
7 largest manufacturer by far in Centralia.

8 Don't forget that construction of the
9 power line will bring construction workers to the
10 area that will rent hotel rooms, buy food, pump gas
11 and buy other goods and services while they're
12 here.

13 Because of the benefits of lower energy
14 prices and to the support of growing good jobs in
15 Centralia, our Board of Aldermen recently passed a
16 resolution on August 29th authorizing the Mayor and
17 City of Centralia, Missouri, to enter into
18 negotiations with the Joint Municipal Electric
19 Utility Commission commonly referred to as MJMEUC,
20 to obtain a long-term purchased power agreement for
21 wind energy to be delivered to the City of
22 Centralia from the clean line.

23 I am not without sympathy for the
24 landowners. I am a strong supporter of property
25 rights. But the U.S. Constitution has recognized

1 the necessity of using private land to public
2 purposes since it was adopted.

3 In the Bill of Rights, the Fifth Amendment
4 provides that private property owners must be
5 justly be compensated -- for the compensated -- for
6 the public confiscation of private property.

7 And there must be a real benefit. Cheap
8 energy, good paying jobs, clean energy are all -- I
9 feel are all real public benefit.

10 I urge you to support the Grain Belt
11 Express Clean Line, LLC, for a Certificate of
12 Convenience & Necessity to build the DC power line.
13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Matthew Harline.

17 MATTHEW HARLINE,
18 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
19 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

20 TESTIMONY OF MATTHEW HARLINE

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
22 and spell your last name.

23 MR. HARLINE: Matthew Harline. Last name
24 is spelled H-a-r-l-i-n-e.

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?

1 MR. HARLINE: I reside at 321 South
2 Hickman Street in Centralia, Missouri. Let me that
3 I work at the City Hall, 114 South Rollins Street
4 in Centralia, Missouri.

5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

6 MR. HARLINE: Commissioners, I'm Matt
7 Harline, the City Administrator of Centralia. I
8 want to thank you for holding these public hearings
9 close to us and to the landowners that are
10 interested in this case. I know it takes a lot of
11 time and effort on your part.

12 The Mayor Pro Tem Lee has already spoken,
13 so I'll be brief and try to avoid being redundant.
14 I am here to speak in support of the application by
15 the Grain Belt Express Clean Line, LLC, for the
16 Certificate of Convenience & Necessity to build the
17 DC power line.

18 The City of Centralia encourages this
19 project primarily because it means lower costs to
20 our local municipal electric utility. Those cost
21 savings will be passed on directly to the citizens,
22 schools, churches, local businesses in Centralia.

23 Those savings will also be passed on to
24 the water and sewer users in town because water
25 utilities use a lot of electricity to run the pumps

1 and other equipment, we use electricity to run the
2 lift stations. And in Centralia, we use it to pump
3 water and for farmers to irrigate their crops.

4 So the effects ever lower electricity
5 costs are multiplied. Currently, our electric rate
6 of 9.7 cents per kilowatt as Jim was just saying,
7 we're talking about buying purchased purchasing
8 power for 2.5 cents per kilowatt.

9 And our current contract, although too
10 technical, includes capacity and it's over our four
11 cents. And the next one which starts in May -- or
12 June 1st in the new MISO year is over -- is 3.4
13 cents. So we're talking about significant savings
14 to businesses and individuals.

15 Centralia also supports this project
16 because it promotes economic development in our
17 city and the region. Mr. Lee also -- already
18 mentioned that Hubbell Power Systems will benefit,
19 which is of tremendous importance to Centralia.
20 But every business in Centralia will benefit as
21 will the businesses in Hannibal and other cities
22 that purchase power through MJMEUC.

23 I learned at the Missouri Public Utility
24 Alliance yesterday that the wind has been secured
25 at very reasonable rates, so there are real savings

1 and real potential benefits.

2 The added job to Hubbell and the
3 construction jobs will lend money to Centralia's
4 economy, but also to every community along the
5 power line as well.

6 Centralia has been growing slowly. But
7 like much of northern Missouri, every added lower
8 cost helps.

9 I'd also like to add that everybody uses
10 electricity, rich and poor. While typically
11 wealthier people have larger homes, typically, it's
12 not unusual with Centralia citizens with small
13 incomes to live in poorly insulated homes and run
14 up large utility bills in the summer and winter.

15 I see it every month when we shut offer 20
16 to 25 customers for non-payment. And it's always
17 the people who have very little money that have the
18 hardest time paying their utility bills.

19 Therefore, I see that lower utility bills
20 may allow some of them to keep their lights and
21 heat on. Lower utility bills mean they can afford
22 new clothes, more food. I'm sure you hear that
23 every time somebody talks about utility raises. I
24 see it every month.

25 My grandfather, James Christopher Harline,

1 was part of the a group of landowners that filed
2 suits against Kansas City Power & Light after a
3 power line issue across his land.

4 That was decades ago. It turned out to be
5 an important case in the rights of landowners
6 versus private utilities, so I am not deaf to those
7 opposed to this project.

8 As the City Administrator, I know it is
9 sometimes in the interest of the greater good to
10 choose a path for a high line, sewer line or power
11 line and compensate those landowners for their
12 property loss.

13 For the citizens of my town and the
14 utility ratepayers of the other municipalities that
15 will benefit from there and all those that will
16 benefit from the jobs and other economic benefits,
17 I urge you to grant certificate to allow the green
18 line to be built. Thank you very much.

19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: CRAIG Fuller.

22 CRAIG FULLER,
23 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
24 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

25 TESTIMONY OF CRAIG FULLER

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: State your name and spell
2 your last name.

3 MR. FULLER: Craig Fuller, F-u-l-l-e-r.

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

5 MR. FULLER: 28897 Westwood Drive, Macon,
6 Missouri.

7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

8 MR. FULLER: I am the incoming Public
9 Administrator for Macon County. I was elected here
10 just -- just this November.

11 As the Public Administrator, I work with
12 about 75 individuals who live on a very limited
13 income. Part of my responsibilities for my job is
14 to help them budgets their money and help them to
15 live on the -- on the income that they have.

16 So when I learned that there was a chance
17 in my community, the community where I attend
18 church, the community where we shop and we purchase
19 groceries, we purchase gas, when I learned that
20 there was an opportunity for their -- for us to
21 receive lower -- lower utility rates, I started to
22 support this project.

23 We're talking about bills in my community
24 that have never lowered. They have only increased
25 over the last decade. So I am asking you on behalf

1 of those living on fixed incomes and on behalf of
2 the people that I work with in Macon county, I'm
3 asking you that you would approve this project as
4 it is in the state's best interest. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Kathy Baker.

7 KATHY BAKER,

8 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
9 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

10 TESTIMONY OF KATHY BAKER

11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
12 and spell your last name.

13 MS. BAKER: Kathy Baker, B-a-k-e-r.

14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

15 MS. BAKER: Atlanta, Missouri, 1350
16 Mariner Street.

17 JUDGE BUSHMAN: Please go ahead.

18 MS. BAKER: My husband and I have farmed
19 in north Missouri since 1972. We raised cattle and
20 crops in Macon County, which is north of the
21 transmission line route.

22 I want to tell you about my experiences in
23 farming around transmission lines. We farm three
24 parcels of land that include transmission line
25 structures.

1 For a pasture, obviously, it isn't that
2 big of a concern. The cattle graze underneath the
3 line. And when we mow the pastures, it's an
4 inconvenience, but not a problem to mow beneath and
5 around the lines.

6 For timber, transmission lines provide for
7 optimal hunting as they provide an open line of
8 sight. For crops, I will say it's an inconvenience
9 to drive around the structures when planting,
10 harvesting, et cetera. However, it isn't difficult
11 or at all that time-consuming.

12 As a farmer, I feel like I feed the
13 neighborhood and perhaps the world. When I'm
14 combining around the utility pole, I feel like I'm
15 also doing my part in providing electricity to my
16 neighbors as well.

17 We recently purchased a property that had
18 a transmission line on it as well. It was not
19 considered a nuisance in the purchase process and
20 was actually not even discussed. It did not lower
21 the price of the property in any way or whether it
22 was or wasn't there. It would have not made a
23 difference.

24 Transmission lines quickly become a part
25 of the landscape and are largely ignored. Lines

1 like the Grain Belt Express have minimum impact on
2 taking land out of the production.

3 In fact, I asked someone that works on the
4 project how many acres will be taken out of
5 production by considering the square footage at the
6 base of the structures throughout Missouri.

7 The math says that that is nine acres, nine acres.
8 That is what is taken out of production.

9 Other testimony tonight, they make it
10 sound like transmission lines make farming
11 difficult, if not impossible. For me, it's just a
12 part of providing for my neighbors and the world
13 with food, fields, fiber and perhaps a way for them
14 to plug in while they're at home as well. Thank
15 you.

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you

18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: William Angien? I am
19 saying that right? A-n-g-i-e-n. How about --

20 WILLIAM ANGLLEN,

21 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
22 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

23 TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM ANGLLEN

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
25 and spell your last name.

1 MR. ANGLIN: William Anglin, A-n-g-l-e-n.
2 A-n-g-l-e-n.

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live,
4 sir?

5 MR. ANGLIN: 12619 Road -- Road 81, Paris,
6 Missouri.

7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

8 MR. ANGLIN: I own 80 acres which this
9 will go right through the middle of. The acreage
10 is completely worth -- is currently worth about
11 \$6,000 an acre.

12 After this goes through, it will be
13 probably worth less than two to \$3,000 per acre and
14 virtually non-farmable. There will be at least one
15 tower, probably two on this 80 acres.

16 I live right at the corner -- it's right
17 at the corner of M and 15. So if you're going to
18 cross 15, they're going to have to put a tower
19 there.

20 The line's magnetic field that will affect
21 animals, crops and machinery. Knowing that you
22 have part of this magnetic field spans out from the
23 power lines. I have experience in electrical
24 engineering.

25 It's estimated these lines drop about to

1 within 35 feet of the ground. This will make it
2 dangerous for combines and grain wagons to harvest
3 crops around and under those lines assuming that
4 that magnetic field does not wipe out the GPS
5 equipment.

6 John Deere says you cannot run their
7 equipment with their computer system under a power
8 line, both power lines. And on two other places
9 along this line, the south property one electric
10 fence runs within 200 feet of Clean Line's 200 acre
11 -- 200 foot branchway.

12 And what effect will this have on the
13 electric fencing? Do I have to ground all my
14 fences to work on them? I don't like working on
15 hot electric fences.

16 The other property though not directly in
17 line with this line will affect our combines and
18 power wagons and steering wagons. Being an amateur
19 radio operator, how does this affect frequencies
20 that I am allocated as primary user on? Thank you.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Steve thank you.

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Lois Bragg.

24 LOIS BRAGG,

25 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole

1 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

2 TESTIMONY OF LOIS BRAGG

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
4 and spell your last name.

5 MS. BRAGG: Lois Bragg, B-r-a-g-g.

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

7 MS. BRAGG: Four 425 West Bates, LaPlata,
8 Missouri.

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

10 MS. BRAGG: Good evening, members of the
11 Missouri Public Service Commission. My name is
12 Lois Bragg, and I am the Mayor of the City of
13 LaPlata.

14 I am honored to be able to testify before
15 you this evening on behalf of the community which
16 consists of approximately 1400 residents. Of those
17 1400 residents and our last vote of moderate income
18 survey, 64 percent of our population falls below
19 the low to moderate income.

20 Like so many small communities, our
21 residents have lots of trouble paying their utility
22 bills. The City of LaPlata has been a member of
23 the Missouri Joint municipal Electric Commission
24 since 2005. We're also a member of the Missouri
25 Public Pool. I was just at a meeting today and

1 they did pass a resolution recently approving that
2 the proposal to purchase long-term transmission
3 service on the Grain Belt Express.

4 Obviously, this project is in the public's
5 best interest as it expected to save the 35 members
6 -- communities of the energy pool an estimated
7 \$10 million annually.

8 The proposed savings to our community
9 alone would mean a cost reduction per kilowatt of
10 almost one and a half. Right now, I think we're
11 paying eight, and they're saying anywhere from two
12 to three cents.

13 Wind energy prices continue to become more
14 and more affordable and are now very competitive.
15 The Grain Belt Express will also help our state
16 meet the green energy requirements.

17 With 35 cities known as Missouri Public
18 Energy Pool or MOPEP, this agreement is a
19 significant savings and addition to our energy
20 portfolio and options.

21 It isn't every day that myself, as a
22 Mayor, can go to our community and our residents
23 and say, There is a possibility of lowering our
24 electric costs.

25 As Mayor of a small town and where in

1 rural areas we all struggle to pay our utility
2 bills, likewise, everywhere else in the small
3 communities do as well.

4 I ask the Commission to please see that
5 this project is in the entire state's public
6 interest and ask you to please approve the Grain
7 Belt Express.

8 I would like to thank you very much for a
9 allowing me to testify and for your time and your
10 consideration in this matter. Thank you.

11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Debbie
12 Hodges.

13 DEBBIE HODGES,
14 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
15 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

16 TESTIMONY OF DEBBIE HODGES

17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
18 and spell your last name.

19 MS. HODGES: My name is Debbie Hodges,
20 H-o-d-g-e-s.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

22 MS. HODGES: I reside at 42110 Highway D,
23 Perry, Missouri.

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

25 MS. HODGES: We farm with our two sons in

1 Ralls County, and we have our entire life. My
2 husband, it's his family farm. His grandparents
3 had it, his parents, and now us, and it's passed on
4 to our sons.

5 After attending the hearing in Hannibal
6 last night, I felt I needed to voice my opinion. I
7 would like to know who motivated all of the
8 Washington University and St. Louis University
9 clean energy activists to come to Hannibal and
10 testify.

11 They expressed a lot of concern about so
12 many people having asthma and health issues from
13 the cold. They stated we need clean energy.

14 I grew up on a farm in Audrain County. I
15 am very lucky that my parents are both 91 years old
16 and still living alone and active.

17 I remember as a child we had a coal room
18 in our basement. My dad would shovel coal in it,
19 and that's what we used for heat. I have six
20 brothers, and none of us have ever had problems
21 with asthma, which I am thankful for.

22 I do not think coal is a problem in the
23 city. These are not normal power lines. If I
24 understand correctly, the proposed line is a DC
25 line, which has never been built in the United

1 States. No one knows the risks involved. We do
2 not want to be the guinea pigs.

3 A couple of years ago, I remember a
4 doctor testifying that anyone that had cancer or
5 young children should not be near these lines.
6 This is my main concern. The health of all --
7 everyone.

8 We have four grandchildren. When they get
9 home from school during the farming season, they
10 all like to ride in the tractor or combine with
11 their dad.

12 That scares me thinking you may expose
13 them to the DC current which could cause cancer.
14 And this is our future generation.

15 This proposed line would not be far from
16 the new Ralls County Elementary School that just
17 opened this fall. And I also really feel for the
18 Amish who do not even use electricity and the lines
19 too close to two of their schools. How heartless
20 is that?

21 Using GPS has become a very important part
22 of farming. The GPS systems would probably not
23 work during -- near these lines.

24 We also do a lot of aerial spraying. This
25 would not be possible with power lines running

1 through the middle of our fields. I don't think
2 people realize the magnitude of these poles. They
3 are much taller than any existing that we have
4 anywhere.

5 I think it's pretty sad that after
6 testifying, most of the Hannibal Public Works
7 officials and the students didn't have the courtesy
8 to stay and hear what we had to say.

9 There is no guarantee that any power will
10 be provided in Missouri, especially at the cheap
11 rates that they are saying they would be able to
12 offer.

13 Sometimes we need to just use common
14 sense. I don't know what part of no they don't
15 understand when we say we do not want the Grain
16 Belt Express running through our state on our
17 private property.

18 I ask you to please deny the right of
19 eminent domain to these -- to this private
20 corporation. Thank you very much for your time.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Mike Diel.

22 MIKE DIEL,
23 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
24 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

25 TESTIMONY OF MIKE DIEL

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
2 and spell your last name.

3 MR. DIEHL: My name is Mike Diel, D, as in
4 David, i-e-l. I live in Macon County. I've got a
5 farm in Macon County

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

7 MR. DIEHL: Thank you for taking time to
8 listen to me. I'm a retired factory worker,
9 landlord and Christmas tree farmer.

10 This power line is needed for the sure
11 economics if no other reason. Wind is free. The
12 cost of wind turbines is steadily decreasing
13 whereas the cost for fossil fuel is steadily
14 increasing.

15 AmerenUE, Missouri's largest electricity
16 producer, has asked the PSC for rate hikes numerous
17 times in the last few years. Almost every time,
18 the cost of the fuel was one of the reasons for the
19 hike.

20 In long-term, if we don't switch over to
21 renewable energy, we will lose our employment base.
22 Large energy users like General Electric, Proctor &
23 Gamble, Target, Kelloggs, Nestle and others have
24 growing demands of renewable energy to power the
25 Missouri facilities. That's why they've come out

1 in support of the Grain Belt Express.

2 For Missouri to maintain and attract jobs,
3 these large employers need the Grain Belt project.
4 There are already more jobs in renewable energy
5 than in gas and oil production.

6 The Missouri Department of Economic
7 Development found the project was 1500 jobs during
8 the three years of construction provide clean,
9 reliable energy for years to come.

10 Also, the project will make more than \$7.2
11 million in taxes to support schools and public
12 services in Macon County in the first year of the
13 operation alone.

14 It will continue to pay significant
15 property taxes for the life of the project and
16 delivers clean, renewable energy to Missouri
17 residents and businesses. Truly a win-win. Thank
18 you.

19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. James Harmon.

20 JAMES HARMON,
21 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
22 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

23 TESTIMONY OF JAMES HARMON

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
25 and spell your last name.

1 MR. HARMON: James Harmon, H-a-r-m-o-n.

2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

3 MR. HARMON: 813 East Normal Avenue,
4 Kirksville.

5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

6 MR. HARMON: I'm still James Harmon from
7 Kirksville in northeast Missouri. Numerous of my
8 friends and colleagues and their spouses and
9 children live in the St. Louis metro area.

10 Air quality improvements enabled by the
11 clean line, which downloads electricity for the --
12 for the metro area is vital. All Missourians
13 benefit from improved air quality.

14 Residing downwind from traditional,
15 especially coal-fired power plants like St. Louis,
16 plagues everyone, particularly the elderly,
17 infirmed and the young most particularly or
18 seriously.

19 Rates of respiratory ailments like asthma
20 in the St. Louis area far surpass rates elsewhere
21 in our state. Each reduction of reliance upon
22 fossil fuel fired power plants reduce contaminants
23 and pollution, particularly, pollution from lead
24 and arsenic as well as the micro particle material,
25 mainly carbon.

1 Some pollutants, when inhaled, can pass
2 through the lungs and in the bloodstream. On bad
3 days, breathing area out of doors is compromised
4 for an hour at the least. Outside play for
5 children is dangerous. There for, the benefits of
6 clean power are obvious.

7 All clean energy, thus, directly improves
8 conditions contributing to the health and welfare
9 of Missouri -- Missourians. More indirectly, but
10 nonetheless a crucial potential cascading effect of
11 encouraging additional clean energy is the
12 transmission and addition in Missouri of
13 environmentally friendly produced electricity from
14 the Kansas winds farms via the clean line.

15 All additions of clean energy to our power
16 mix make urgently needed contributions for
17 bettering the air quality and, thus, enhancing
18 individual health and well-being and even reducing
19 electric bills.

20 Respiratory ailments create statistically
21 significant financial damages to families and
22 individuals through more Emergency Room visits and
23 hospitalizations.

24 Fossil source energy imposes real economic
25 stresses upon Missouri's general population and

1 upon individual Missourians sickened by air
2 pollution. And this adds cost, not to mention the
3 physical and emotional stresses and damages
4 suffered by the affected and their families.

5 I don't live downwind from a coal-fired
6 power plant. And, therefore, in an immediate
7 sense, I am affected only positively through --
8 though indirectly by additional clean energy power
9 on the grid.

10 Everything and every new source of
11 sustainable energy reduces externalized costs,
12 which some pay bills and others in -- in increased
13 insurance premiums.

14 Put simply and directly, all Missourians
15 reap benefits from the Grain Belt Clean Line
16 through improved air quality, reduction in
17 pollution, cause illnesses, thus, avoiding an
18 increase in health care outlays.

19 Income will accrue to local landowners and
20 municipalities along the clean line. Globally,
21 Clean Line significantly reduces carbon inputs to
22 the atmosphere, which inputs at current levels will
23 vastly decrease the price of doing business if
24 water -- clean water and cooling are involved.

25 The clean line is one positive local and

1 regional move toward maintaining our -- our clean
2 atmosphere and the benefits for Missouri as clean
3 water.

4 Think globally, act locally. Please
5 approve the clean line. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Tim Bennett.

8 TIM BENNETT,

9 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
10 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

11 TESTIMONY OF TIM BENNETT

12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: State your name and spell
13 your last name.

14 MR. BENNETT: Tim Bennett, B-e-n-n-e-t-t.

15 JUDGE BUSHMAN: And where do you live?

16 MR. BENNETT: Columbia.

17 JUDGE BUSHMAN: Go ahead.

18 MR. BENNETT: I am in support of this
19 project. I am in support of clean and renewable
20 energy. I work for an engineering firm in Columbia
21 that provides testing for engineering and materials
22 testing in central and rural Missouri.

23 We've heard that this project will have
24 renewed -- or reduced costs. But we do need right
25 now and in the future clean and renewable energy.

1 What's not been mentioned is that with
2 this project, this also the energy infrastructure
3 will be part of the project. I work on other
4 infrastructure stuff, transportation.

5 The systems need to be renewed over time.
6 This will be a very important portion of the
7 project. Also, I do employ staff. This project
8 for three years with 1500 possible jobs is a great
9 opportunity for myself to employ good people.
10 Thank you for your time.

11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Phil Brown.

12 PHIL BROWN,
13 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
14 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

15 TESTIMONY OF PHIL BROWN

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
17 and spell your last name.

18 MR. BROWN: My name is Phil Brown. Last
19 name is spelled B-r-o-w-n.

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Where do you
21 live?

22 MR. BROWN: Fulton, Missouri.

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

24 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Commissioners, for
25 the opportunity to speak to you tonight. Grain

1 Belt is proposing a corridor across north Missouri
2 for more lines in the future. Grain Belt proposed
3 line is like Pandora's box of Greek mythology.
4 Once opened, what else comes out besides more
5 electric transmission lines?

6 I'm opposed to Grain Belt's application
7 and I ask you again to deny it for the reasons of
8 eminent domain.

9 Why should labor, contractors and
10 manufacturers get to determine the price they
11 charge Grain Belt while Grain Belt gets to dictate
12 what they would pay us landowners?

13 Another reason I oppose Grain Belt is the
14 routes and method chosen would impact many rural
15 residents who would not receive any compensation.
16 Grain Belt could compromise and bury the line along
17 soft rights-of-ways of highways and railroads.

18 It might be useful for someone independent
19 of Grain Belt to determine the number of residents
20 within sight of the 206-mile line and their
21 property values to estimate how much residential
22 property value decline occur in the 18 impacted
23 counties from this line. Someone should prepare a
24 3-D advise visualization to show the proposed line
25 above the three line.

1 I'm also concerned about the Amish
2 community of 228 families and five Amish schools
3 near the proposed route. The Amish are very
4 concerned about Grain Belt's health risks and
5 impact on their lives and farms and as they move
6 into organic farming.

7 Two Amish schools near the proposed route
8 as of yesterday are not marked on Grain Belt's map.
9 I told Grain Belt about these schools several
10 times. If Grain Belt will not take care of easy
11 things like accurately marking schools on their
12 maps, then why should anyone believe they can
13 properly do the difficult and expensive things
14 related to this line?

15 The school is within 1500 feet of this
16 line. A line this powerful may never have been
17 built in the U.S. so near so many young children.

18 Over the years, I've donated services and
19 time to the community, including supporting
20 schools. But the property tax hike by Grain Belt
21 is not guaranteed as they protest or ask for
22 abatements. The amount for schools will be about
23 one and a half percent of the total cost of
24 students in Randolph County.

25 We would bear the brunt of this line and I

1 believe it would harm that community, especially if
2 more lines were to come.

3 Grain Belt uses the word "cheap" a lot.
4 We are concerned about Grain Belt's cheapness may
5 apply to designing, building, operating and
6 maintaining its line.

7 The PSC should require that the Grain Belt
8 proposed line is designed and built, operated and
9 maintained to high standards regardless of the cost
10 and not by cheap or low cost standards to increase
11 Grain Belt's profits.

12 Regardless -- regarding cheap power, some
13 believe the price quoted by Grain Belt includes the
14 actual electricity cost, which is another example
15 of Grain Belt's misinformation.

16 Grain Belt, by law, cannot discriminate in
17 what type of energy they transmit. Because of
18 intermittent wind, the Grain Belt line could carry
19 more electricity from fossil fuels than wind.

20 Before construction begins, the PSC should
21 require Grain Belt to fully fund in an escrow fund,
22 bond or other ways the removal of the line and
23 restoration of the costs to avoid the landowners or
24 the taxpayers of this state being stuck with that
25 problem.

1 If the East Coast wants wind energy where
2 most of this wind is going, build a wind channel
3 off the coast -- the East Coast.

4 Yesterday, the Economist magazine released
5 a press release about potential East Coast offshore
6 winds farms, which I will attach to my written
7 statement that I will file you with you.

8 Because of the limitation of time, and I
9 admit I did not state many things that will be in
10 my written statement, and I would appreciate you
11 considering the statement on file with you,
12 including the exhibits on which I've marked two
13 schools Grain Belt has indifferently avoided
14 putting on their maps.

15 And I thank you again for your time and
16 consideration and I propose denying Grain Belt's
17 application.

18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: That will be Exhibit 34?

19 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes.

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Joe Kromer?

21 JOE KROMER,

22 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
23 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

24 TESTIMONY OF JOE KROMER

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name

1 and spell your last name.

2 MR. KROMER: My name is Joe Kromer,
3 spelled K-r-o-m-e-r.

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

5 MR. KROMER: At 4951 Highway AA here in
6 Randolph County.

7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

8 MR. KROMER: I am a retired farmer. I
9 thank you for coming to Randolph County. I am
10 opposed to Grain Belt Express Clean Line project.

11 Most people that live and work in the path
12 of the shadow of this line don't want it. It's
13 disruptive to their lives and property. We expect
14 very little or no benefit from this line.

15 This is big money seeking abusive use of
16 the right of eminent domain. We went through this
17 same exercise about two years ago. Not much has
18 changed.

19 The project is still emergent wanting a
20 power cord across Missouri, and there is little or
21 no local benefit. This doesn't fit the criteria of
22 a public utility.

23 There are many examples and destinations
24 of big money acquiring private property by using
25 eminent domain and the projects going belly up,

1 disrupting many lives and property with little or
2 no benefit to anyone.

3 Kilo versus the City of New London,
4 Connecticut comes to mind. Recently, Moberly and
5 Randolph County experienced economic disaster
6 called Mamtech.

7 It was supposed to create jobs and produce
8 low cost sweeteners. It failed, ending in
9 bankruptcy with large financial losses. Local
10 officials and economic development people really
11 got fooled on this one. It could happen again.
12 I'm sorry.

13 Grain Belt is promoting the jobs and tax
14 revenue idea. But they have not permanently waived
15 the right to protest tax assessments or seek
16 abatement of Missouri's property taxes.

17 They also promote the idea of low cost
18 energy. Would this be lower cost than we already
19 have? Or are they going to save customers
20 \$10 million as per their recent -- annually as per
21 their recent ads? This is unbelievable.

22 They don't have any product to sell.
23 Randolph County already has power generation that
24 meets clean energy standards and has transmission
25 facilities that serve Missourians, generates jobs

1 and tax revenue and does so at competitive prices
2 -- energy prices.

3 I suspect that the Grain Belt Express
4 proposal, the net long-term job losses in Randolph
5 County. If electrical energy is available on the
6 line going east from Missouri has available
7 capacity, why would any marketing or dispatch team
8 drop power in Missouri when the power could easily
9 be sent to higher prices in the eastern power grid?

10 Who would police the promised 500 megawatt
11 crop in Missouri? This seems like a promotion or
12 sales gimmick. Grain Belt's proposed project is
13 not a part of a comprehensive plan for electric
14 grids improvement.

15 Where is the benefit in Missouri? All
16 Missouri investor and co-op owned electric
17 utilities have adequate wholesale power to meet the
18 renewable field standards. They don't need or want
19 this power.

20 Grain Belt has not shown a need for this
21 energy in Missouri. I am told by property owners
22 that the proposed high voltage transmission lines
23 in residential areas in the City of Columbia
24 threaten to drop adjacent property values by as
25 much as 70 percent.

1 In rural areas, an easement through a
2 tract of land will drop the total value of the
3 entire tract. I can document this statement from
4 personal experience.

5 There is no other future land use. I'll
6 repeat. There is no other future land use. Anyone
7 living or working in the vicinity of this line is
8 collateral damage and subject to associated health
9 and environmental hazards, including electrical
10 pollution, and that would include the drifting of
11 ionic fields caused by winds.

12 Property rights ought to include being
13 free from high voltage electrical pollution. Thank
14 you for coming and listening.

15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you, sir.

16 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Rose Kroner.

18 ROSE KRONER,
19 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
20 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

21 TESTIMONY OF ROSE KRONER

22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
23 and spell your last name.

24 MS. KRONER: Rose Kroner. Kroner is
25 spelled K-r-o-n-e-r.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

2 MS. KRONER: 4951 Highway AA, Moberly,
3 Missouri.

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

5 MS. KRONER: Commissioners and Staff,
6 thank you for being here. I am Rose Kroner, and I
7 live in Randolph County, Moberly, Missouri.

8 I am a retired employee of the Randolph
9 County Health Department. Thank you for giving me
10 this opportunity to speak to you in regard to the
11 Grain Belt Express Clean Line proposal to build a
12 direct current power line across Missouri.

13 As a two-time cancer survivor found by
14 routine screenings with colon cancer in October of
15 2010 and breast cancer in January of 2012, I am
16 against the construction of Grain Belt Express
17 Clean Line.

18 As this line is now proposed, it will be
19 approximately 400 feet from my home. On May 13th,
20 2014, I told my breast cancer oncologist, Dr. Ravi
21 Kiran Bobba, Staff Physician at the University of
22 Missouri, about the proposed DC high voltage line
23 and its closeness to our home.

24 My oncologist, Dr. Bobba, told me that if
25 this high voltage line became a reality, I would

1 have to relocate my home. This is the home where
2 we have raised our family and now our
3 grandchildren. It is the home that we have worked
4 our entire lives to own and have designed where and
5 how we wanted it and handicapped accessible.

6 This is the home that we plan to live in
7 until we leave this world. And now I am told that
8 I will have to relocate if this high voltage line
9 becomes a reality.

10 I ask the Commission to deny Grain Belt
11 Express Clean Line's application for a Certificate
12 of Convenience & Necessity. Thank you.

13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Robin Henke.

16 ROBIN HENKE,
17 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
18 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

19 TESTIMONY OF ROBIN HENKE

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
21 and spell your last name.

22 MS. HENKE: Robin Henke, H-e-n-k-e.

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

24 MS. HENKE: Salsbury, Missouri.

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

1 MS. HENKE: Like the gentleman said
2 earlier, our dreams are being ripped apart. I
3 think all of us that are against this feel that
4 way.

5 This line would go through a mile of our
6 land, which includes the first farm my husband
7 purchased as his own farm at age 18.

8 This farm has always been very special to
9 us. On this farm, my husband proposed to me on the
10 spot we have always dreamed of building. This
11 special spot is right in the path of the line.

12 The second farm is one we purchased weeks
13 before we first started this line. We purchased it
14 because I was pregnant with another boy. We wanted
15 to ensure that both of our boys would -- if they
16 wanted to farm would have the possibility to do so.

17 I can remember standing there nine months
18 pregnant at auction and the feelings of excitement
19 and possibility for our children's future. We
20 would not have purchased this farm if we had -- if
21 we would have known about this line prior to
22 purchasing it.

23 We live in an old farmhouse. We've
24 outgrown this house. It isn't feasible for us to
25 put more money into this house. Even then, it's

1 still too close for comfort to the proposed line.

2 We would be forced to move and do not have
3 another option of a place to move at this point.
4 The line goes through the center of both of our
5 farms.

6 We were told there would be seven
7 structures on our land. It will cut our pasture in
8 half, row crops in half, and it will affect any
9 irrigation, aerial application. And maneuvers
10 around these poles with large equipment can be
11 hazardous.

12 My sister lives in Stewardsville,
13 Missouri. This is a site that is currently being
14 overloaded with wind turbines. Her husband's
15 family didn't sign up for the turbines on their
16 land, but many of their neighbors did.

17 Standing on their back porch, she can see
18 25 wind turbines. She lives in a family home place
19 and has never had any intention of leaving.
20 Currently, they are considering relocating because
21 of the eyesore and destruction of the land around
22 them.

23 I recently went to visit her, and the
24 roads are in horrible condition from all of the
25 traffic from the large equipment needed to build

1 these things.

2 Equipment like that would also be needed
3 to build these transmission lines. I have heard
4 people say earlier today that building these lines
5 can have low impact on soil and that it wouldn't
6 affect -- affect the land very badly.

7 That is also what we heard from pipelines
8 that recently went through our land. Those
9 pipelines caused major erosion issues which we had
10 to document and fight over and over again for
11 several months to finally get some money back from.

12 One day, they left the gate open on our
13 farm. I got called from school and ran down a
14 gravel road in dress shoes getting cattle off of
15 this gravel that's on top of the hill where there
16 wasn't much visibility so our cattle won't get hit.

17 Clean Line says these things won't happen.
18 But how are they going to ensure that? This isn't
19 their workers' land, and so they are not going to
20 treat it as such.

21 They showed us little respect and little
22 care for our property. Recently, we went to --
23 went to Wisconsin to see my sister-in-law. On the
24 way, we saw a spot that had at least four lines
25 stacked in one stack.

1 With a 200 feet easement, what is going to
2 stop this from happening? One line is bad enough.
3 But what about when more are added on the same
4 easement? I researched this some and saw this has
5 happened in numerous locations.

6 I am worried about my boys' future. Will
7 their future in farming be a constant fight for
8 their rights? How many companies will follow suit
9 if this line goes through? Will we even want our
10 boys to continue the sixth generation business if
11 they have to deal with this happening over and over
12 again?

13 I can tell you we are tired, but we are
14 not giving in to big business. We will not let
15 them bully us into giving up.

16 I also wanted to add a note. A farm was
17 recently auctioned in our community where there was
18 three tracts of land. One tract had a transmission
19 line going through it. The other two did not.
20 That land had better soil quality but went for a
21 thousand dollars less per acre than the two lands
22 that did not have the transmission line. I wanted
23 to add that note. Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. John Hobbs.

1 JOHN HOBBS,
2 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
3 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

4 TESTIMONY OF JOHN HOBBS

5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: State your name and spell
6 your last name, please.

7 MR. HOBBS: John Hobbs, H-o-b-b-s.

8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

9 MR. HOBBS: 2095 County Road 2160,
10 Huntsville, Missouri.

11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

12 MR. HOBBS: Mr. Chairman and
13 Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to
14 speak.

15 Currently, I own 700 plus acres of farm
16 land in Randolph County and currently manage an
17 additional 1400 acres.

18 Grain Belt proposes a route which will
19 cross my farm about 800 to 900 foot in front of my
20 new home. I believe Grain Belt transmission lines
21 will interfere with my farm's operation and reduce
22 the value of my farm and my new house.

23 My following comments will show that most
24 of the Randolph County people are against the Grain
25 Belt proposal. On September the 6th, 2012,

1 remember this statement, on September the 6th,
2 2012, the then serving three Randolph County
3 Commissioners approved and signed two agreements
4 with Grain Belt giving Grain Belt authority to
5 build, maintain utility lines over and under the
6 County roads.

7 On July 11th, 2013, the three
8 Commissioners voted and signed a resolution
9 supporting Grain Belt. Remember the date. July
10 13th of 2013.

11 I believe that the first opportunity for
12 the general public of Randolph County, Missouri, to
13 learn about the Grain Belt project was a Grain Belt
14 information meeting on July the 30th, 2013, in this
15 building after our County Commissioners had already
16 given the Grain Belt what they wanted.

17 In 2014, the presiding Commissioner who
18 supported the Grain Belt did not run for
19 re-election and only two candidates ran for this
20 position.

21 Both candidates spoke at the 2014 PSC
22 hearing in this building under opposition of Grain
23 Belt and said that they -- as they campaigned for
24 the election, they found most of the people of
25 Randolph County are against the Grain Belt.

1 John Truesdell was elected Presiding
2 Commissioner in the November 2014 election which he
3 continues to hold.

4 In 2016, Western District Commissioner
5 Jerry Crutchfield who voted for and signed the
6 Grain Belt agreement and supported the resolutions
7 ran for re-election.

8 I ran against him. Jerry -- and
9 among my campaign positions and statements was that
10 I was opposed to Grain Belt Express. I campaigned
11 including door-to-door. About 90 percent of the
12 people I contacted were against Grain Belt.

13 And in the six months that I went
14 door-to-door in the evening after work campaigning
15 for my position, one of the first two questions
16 that was asked of me by the people who I was
17 campaigning asked me if I was for or against Grain
18 Belt.

19 I won the election and will be the
20 Randolph County Western District Commissioner after
21 December 31st of this year.

22 I believe that most of the people in
23 Randolph County are against the Grain Belt project
24 and very, very few support the Grain Belt.

25 Grain Belt says it is a merchant

1 transmitter. Grain Belt is not a public utility.
2 I do not believe Grain Belt will benefit Randolph
3 County or the State of Missouri. The Grain Belt
4 should not have the power of eminent domain to
5 condemn and take easements from landowners. Thank
6 you, gentlemen.

7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: John Bliven.

8 JOHN BLIVEN,
9 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
10 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

11 TESTIMONY OF JOHN BLIVEN

12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
13 and spell your last name.

14 MR. BLIVEN: John Bliven. Last name B, as
15 in boy, l-i-v-e-n.

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

17 MR. BLIVEN: I live in Columbia, Missouri.

18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

19 MR. BLIVEN: Thank you. I'm a supporter
20 of the Grain Belt Express because the project will
21 bring many public benefits to Missouri.

22 Talk about some of Missouri needs.
23 Missouri needs jobs. Missouri also needs low cost
24 power. And Missouri needs sustained growth.

25 I believe that infrastructure is one of

1 those key building blocks to sustaining growth. I
2 work for Hubbell Power Systems located in
3 Centralia, Missouri. Hubbell Power Systems is a
4 large manufacturer, a global manufacturer for
5 transmission, distribution, substation electrical
6 products.

7 I'm a Business Unit Director over two
8 businesses located in Centralia, civil and
9 construction businesses.

10 Hubbell is thrilled. I'm also thrilled
11 that we have been chosen to be a partner in Clean
12 Line energy to help build the Grain Belt Express.

13 Our company will supply transmission
14 hardware and insulators for the project. We're
15 also in discussions for providing anchoring
16 products for this project.

17 We have about 700 employees in Centralia.
18 And in our offices and also on the plan floor. And
19 the project such as Grain Belt express not only
20 benefit our company but the community and the
21 surrounding communities along with their employees.

22 The project could potentially bring
23 somewhere between 50 and 65 new jobs to Hubbell
24 with about 80 percent of those residing in
25 Centralia supporting the community and the families

1 within them.

2 These are good jobs, manufacturing
3 customer service, engineering, operations,
4 logistics. Good jobs, good benefits.

5 These type of projects like Grain Belt
6 express also provide opportunities to reinvest in
7 the people, our infrastructure within the
8 facilities and our businesses.

9 This project excites from a local
10 community standpoint. We're going to -- this
11 project would also bring in workers to help build
12 this line, maybe employ workers from around the
13 areas to build this line.

14 These folks are going to need to buy
15 groceries, go out to eat at restaurants, hotels,
16 put gas in their cars and trucks. So there are
17 other benefits to it as well.

18 In addition to the benefits of this
19 project will bring Hubbell and its employees, the
20 Grain Belt Express Clean Line will also bring
21 benefit to the City of Centralia and its residents
22 and businesses.

23 Centralia recently decided to join with
24 other Missouri municipalities in purchasing energy
25 off this power line. Grain Belt Express Clean Line

1 is needed to deliver this low cost wind energy
2 that's renewable that's expected to save Centralia
3 residents and businesses hundreds of thousands of
4 dollars on their power bills.

5 I want to thank you for your time for
6 allowing me the time to speak this evening, and I
7 encourage you to support this project. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. We've been
10 going for a while. Why don't we take a short
11 break? We'll be in recess for about ten minutes.

12 (Break in proceedings.)

13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Folks, would you please
14 have a seat? Thank you. The next witness on list
15 is Mae Graham. Mae Graham? Is Mae Graham here?
16 Sarah Brikerd? Sarah Brinder? How about Richard
17 McClure?

18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Good we have a witness.

19 RICHARD MCCLURE, III,
20 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
21 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

22 TESTIMONY OF RICHARD MCCLURE, III

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Good. We have a witness.

24 State your name and spell your last name.

25 MR. MCCLURE: Richard McClure, III. M,

1 lower case c, Capital C-l-u-r-e.

2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

3 MR. MCCLURE: St. Genevieve, Missouri.

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

5 MR. MCCLURE: All right. I am a Senior
6 Electrical Engineering and Physics Major from the
7 University of Missouri of Columbia. And I hope to
8 maybe continue to live in and make my career in
9 Missouri after I graduate.

10 I have always been brought up with the
11 philosophy of giving back and helping my community.
12 This is a much-needed project in Missouri. It will
13 provide innovations to the electric grid in
14 Missouri.

15 I would hope the Commissioners would vote
16 favorably and give back to the State of Missouri.
17 Please invest in Missouri and invest in my future.
18 Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Err {ishing}
21 sin owe {vebing}? Or scene over ic.

22 ERIC CENOVICH,
23 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
24 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

25 TESTIMONY OF ERIC CENOVICH

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
2 and spell your last name.

3 MR. CENOVICH: Eric Cenovich,
4 C-e-n-o-v-i-c-h.

5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

6 MR. CENOVICH: Kansas City, Missouri.

7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

8 MR. CENOVICH: I want to thank everybody
9 for their time this evening. I know it's a --

10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Can you use the
11 microphone?

12 MR. CENOVICH: I'd like to thank everybody
13 for their time this evening and the burden that
14 they incur to give up their time like this.

15 So I can reiterate what I've heard in the
16 first part of the meeting here, that being the
17 benefits for the Grain Belt express line and, also,
18 give my support to it.

19 The aspects of having clean and a cheaper
20 source of energy is a benefit that we can hopefully
21 realize.

22 The benefits of the tax that we -- tax
23 savings that will be realized by local entities
24 that are along the transmission line route is also
25 a benefit.

1 And the jobs that are created by a project
2 like this also put -- benefits the economic
3 development that benefits everyone.

4 But I have to say I'm also concerned about
5 the benefits for myself and the people that I work
6 with. I'm a co-owner of a small engineering and
7 surveying company in Kansas City.

8 And one of my responsibilities is to make
9 sure that our staff have projects like these,
10 projects that they excel at doing, projects that
11 our company has done for over 50 years like this
12 for transmission lines that they have good paying
13 and a gainful employment for these projects.

14 Not only will our company benefit, but we
15 have teamed with other local entities, other
16 companies along the route here for their
17 participation in it. So there's a local benefit
18 for job employment teaming with these companies.

19 So as I say, I urge Commissioners to give
20 their approval for the Grain Belt Expressway for
21 all the things that it will benefit us. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Becky Otwell?

24 BECKY OTWELL,

25 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole

1 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

2 TESTIMONY OF BECKY OTWELL

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
4 and spell your last name.

5 MS. OTWELL: My name is Becky, B-e-c-k-y,
6 Otwell, O-t-w-e-l-l.

7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

8 MS. OTWELL: I live in St. Louis,
9 Missouri.

10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

11 MS. OTWELL: Tonight, I just want to thank
12 you for the opportunity to speak. And I'm speaking
13 in support of the Grain Belt Express project.

14 I believe that it's going to help grow our
15 local community by bringing work to our communities
16 but also helping our economy. I hope that you
17 support this project. Thank you.

18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Alma Fetahovic?

21 ALMA FETAHOVIC,

22 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
23 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

24 TESTIMONY OF ALMA FETAHOVIC

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name

1 and spell your last name.

2 MS. FETAHOVIC: My name is Alma Fetahovic,
3 F-e-t-a-h-o-v-i-c.

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?

5 MS. FETAHOVIC: Clay County, Missouri.

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

7 MS. FETAHOVIC: And I'm just hear to say
8 that I support the Grain Belt Express project
9 because of the projects it will provide to
10 individuals within our communities.

11 Additionally, I support it because of the
12 advances it will make to our grid and pointing us
13 in the right direction of getting more renewable
14 energy into our communities. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Jeff Kroner?

17 JEFF KRONER,
18 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
19 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

20 TESTIMONY OF JEFF KRONER

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
22 and spell your last name.

23 MR. KRONER: My name is Jeff Kroner, last
24 name spelled K-r-o-n-e-r.

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

1 MR. KRONER: 3144 Highway A, Huntsville,
2 Missouri.

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

4 MR. KRONER: I'm a Registered Professional
5 Engineer in the State of Missouri and a local
6 farmer.

7 My residence is within 2200 feet of the
8 proposed path of the Grain Belt Express Clean Line
9 Energy transmission line, but I do not own land on
10 the proposed path.

11 However, my house would literally be in
12 the shadow of the proposed line and towers. I'm
13 here tonight to express my opposition to Grain Belt
14 Express requesting a Certificate of Convenience &
15 Necessity and the right to use eminent domain and
16 urge the PSC to, again, deny Grain Belt Express's
17 request.

18 Grain Belt Express presents this
19 transmission line as being about environmentally
20 clean wind energy. That's not what this is about.

21 It's my understanding that if this line is
22 constructed, it would not be restricted to carry
23 only power from wind energy. It's not being
24 constructed strictly to carry wind or
25 environmentally clean energy.

1 If constructed, it will likely carry power
2 derived from other resources such as coal, natural
3 gas or nuclear energy. It would carry power from
4 whatever form of energy is the cheapest at the
5 time.

6 This is about property rights. This is
7 about an out of state for-profit company seeking to
8 capitalize on providing a means of transferring
9 power to areas east of Missouri at the expense of
10 rural Missouri residents.

11 Grain Belt Express is not in the power
12 generation business. They simply want to build a
13 toll road for power transfer and make a profit
14 while doing it.

15 Grain Belt Express is seeking a
16 Certificate of Convenience & Necessity and the
17 right to use eminent domain simply to reduce their
18 expenses, improve their marketability and increase
19 their opportunity for profit at the expense of the
20 residents in the proposed path of this line.

21 You, the PSC, previously denied Grain Belt
22 Express's request citing they failed to prove; one,
23 there must be a need for the service; Two, the
24 proposal must be economically feasible; and, three,
25 the service must promote the public interest.

1 Since that ruling, Grain Belt Express has went
2 out and solicited the Missouri Joint Municipal
3 Electric Utility Commission to sign an agreement to
4 purchase power if the proposed line is constructed
5 in hopes that this token amount of power will
6 appease these three criteria you, the PSC, have
7 cited in the previous ruling.

8 I encourage the PSC to see through Grain
9 Belt Express's smoke screen and uphold their
10 previous decision that this transmission line is
11 neither necessary or convenient for the public
12 service of Missouri residents as a whole.

13 According to a recent report from the
14 United States Energy Information Administration
15 released March 24th of 2016, for 2014, the average
16 retail price of electricity in Missouri was 9.11
17 cents per kilowatt hour. Kansas was listed at
18 10.16 cents per kilowatt hour. And Illinois was
19 listed at 9.03 per kilowatt hour.

20 It also stated Missouri's net generation
21 was 87.8 million megawatt hours of electricity.
22 Kansas was listed at 49.7 million megawatt hours of
23 electricity, and Illinois was listed at 202 million
24 megawatt hours.

25 Coal was listed as the primary -- primary

1 energy source for both Kansas and Missouri. So if
2 Kansas is harnessing wind energy and their average
3 retail price for electricity is one cent per
4 kilowatt hour higher than Missouri, how does this
5 proposed line going across the Missouri to
6 primarily serve other states to our east benefit
7 Missouri?

8 Some local County officials have
9 previously testified in favor of the proposed line
10 citing it would bring jobs to the area and the tax
11 revenues generated from this line would be a
12 benefit to the County.

13 It would bring jobs to the area. But as
14 we've seen in the pipeline construction across
15 Randolph County in the recent years, the jobs would
16 be short-term, and the majority of them would be
17 specialized workers from out of the area.

18 As for the tax benefits, Randolph County
19 or other counties in Missouri, it's my
20 understanding that the projected revenue numbers
21 Grain Belt Express has stated are not guaranteed,
22 and Grain Belt has not waived the right to seek
23 abatement of taxes in Missouri.

24 Grain Belt obtained abatement of taxes in
25 Kansas, so why would anybody believe they would

1 seek tax abatement in Missouri? Thank you.

2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: I'm afraid your time is
3 up. Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Rod Sachtleben.

6 ROD SACHTLEBEN,
7 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
8 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

9 TESTIMONY OF ROD SACHTLEBEN

10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
11 and spell your last name.

12 MR. SACHTLEBEN: Rod Sachtleben,
13 S-a-c-h-t-l-e-b-e-n.

14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?

15 MR. SACHTLEBEN: Baldwin, Missouri.

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

17 MR. SACHTLEBEN: I work with Hanson
18 Professional Services, an employee-owned
19 engineering and planning consulting firm with
20 offices nation-wide, including Kansas, Illinois and
21 Indiana, all of which have approved this project as
22 well as in Missouri.

23 Hanson is charter member of the Institute
24 for Sustainable Infrastructure founded by the
25 American Public Works Association, the American

1 Society of Civil Engineers and the American Council
2 of Engineering Companies.

3 I'm here to express support for the Grain
4 Belt Express project due to the sustainability and
5 the sustainable energy that it would transmit and
6 the many benefits that it would bring to the
7 region.

8 Also, in addition to manufacturing
9 construction and maintenance jobs, transmission
10 lines like Grain Belt Express bring hundreds of
11 scientific and engineering jobs to the area.

12 Our company has been providing engineering
13 and support services for transmission lines and
14 substations in Missouri and throughout the Midwest.

15 Projects such as this have been essential
16 to providing important work for our geotechnical,
17 civil, structural and water resources engineers,
18 our surveyors and our environmental scientists
19 keeping them gainfully employed and paying taxes.

20 In fact, some of our Missouri employees
21 are already working on Clean Line Energy projects
22 working under contract to General Electric on the
23 design and permitting of the converter stations to
24 be constructed in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Tennessee
25 for Clean Line Energy's lanes on the eastern line,

1 similar to the converter station proposed for Ralls
2 County as part of the Grain Belt Express project.

3 Some of the services we have been
4 providing are subsurface investigations and
5 foundations and designs for transmission
6 structures.

7 The utilities we've worked for recognize
8 the value of utilizing local engineers who are
9 familiar with the local geology. And in our case,
10 we have also working relationships with local
11 subcontractor for soil, boring, drilling firms that
12 we use here in Missouri, including Geotechnics out
13 of Hannibal.

14 In addition to the value brought to the
15 transmission projects, the money spent to employ
16 local firms like us and local subcontractors is to
17 reinvest it right back into the area by the
18 employees themselves.

19 Additionally, our field representatives
20 consisting of surveyors, engineers, environmental
21 scientists and construction quality assurance
22 agents spend thousands of dollars weekly at local
23 gas stations and restaurants and at hotels and
24 locations where home is just a bit too far away to
25 return to every night.

1 Overall, these large transmission projects
2 are important to Hanson's business, but also to me
3 as an employee owner and my family. Thank you.

4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Steve Adams?

7 STEVE ADAMS,

8 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
9 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

10 TESTIMONY OF STEVE ADAMS

11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
12 and spell your last name.

13 MR. ADAMS: Steve Adams, A-d-a-m-s.

14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

15 MR. ADAMS: Parkville, Missouri.

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

17 MR. ADAMS: For the record, I'm President
18 of Parr Electric and Vice President of Horner
19 Services. I'm her to speak in favor the Grain Belt
20 express and the jobs it will create for my company
21 and all of Missouri.

22 Founded in 1954, Parr Electric of Missouri
23 Corporation is the largest outside electrical
24 contracting company in North America based in
25 Kansas City, Missouri.

1 Parr Electric has permanent offices across
2 the nation as well as temporary offices near all of
3 our projects.

4 Parr Electric is an affiliate of Quantum.
5 Grain Belt Express and Quantum have signed an HVDC
6 transmission development agreement.

7 This agreements commits each party to
8 working towards a complete engineering procurement
9 and construction contract.

10 This agreement with Parr, a Kansas City
11 construction company for 62 years, demonstrates how
12 Clean Line and Parr will work together to put
13 Missourians to work to build a new electric
14 infrastructure that will benefit the State for
15 decades to come.

16 Projects like Grain Belt Express keep many
17 Missouri crews working at a steady pace. More than
18 600 people are employed by Parr across Missouri.
19 400 employees are based in the Kansas City area,
20 which include our corporate headquarters. Two
21 hundred are employed and based here in the south
22 St. Louis office area.

23 This project will offer Missourians a
24 greater pathway into the electric power industry
25 and long-term employment that comes with it.

1 Given that electric power upgrades are
2 used around the US, there will be a high demand for
3 a skilled work force and craft labor needed for the
4 electric and power district for years to come.

5 This project is estimated to provide 1500 jobs
6 to Missouri alone. With this important project, we
7 can keep local employees busy in our home state and
8 create new and highly skilled workers who will
9 continue to work in the sector long after this
10 project is complete.

11 This is only one of the economic impacts
12 on Missouri. We will also be purchasing local --
13 from local vendors everything from gravel,
14 concrete, rebar, asphalt.

15 As we heard earlier, line hardware and
16 anchors from Hubbell in Centralia. And let's not
17 forget, Missouri is a very large state. So from
18 St. Louis to Kansas City, our guys have to stay at
19 the local hotels or rent from the local campgrounds
20 or rent local real estate, use the grocery stores,
21 the fuel. So they spend their money in the state.

22 And I've heard a lot about the pipelines
23 coming through. I mean, we are the largest in
24 North America. We've been more transmission lines
25 per mile than all our competition and we're located

1 right here in Missouri.

2 The gentleman that will be working on the
3 properties, they'll be your neighbors. I mean, 600
4 -- we'll train at least 400 more. It's just a good
5 -- a good overall economic value for the state.

6 I support this project. Thank you for
7 your time. Please pass it. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. John Wilcox.

10 JOAN WILCOX,
11 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
12 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

13 TESTIMONY OF JOAN WILCOX

14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
15 and sell your last name.

16 MS. WILCOX: Joan Wilcox, W-i-l-c-o-x.

17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

18 MS. WILCOX: Columbia, Missouri.

19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

20 MS. WILCOX: Thank you. As I just said,
21 my name is Joan Wilcox. As the gentleman said, it
22 still is.

23 And I come here to speak to you tonight as
24 a member of the Board of Directors of Mid-Missouri
25 Peace Works, a grass roots non-profit organization

1 with approximately 400 members individuals or
2 households residing in Central Missouri area.

3 I thank you for your time to listen to the
4 voices of concerned Missourians. I know you are
5 seeking to hear concerns regarding the transmission
6 line and my comment addresses this.

7 I would like to start, however, by saying
8 that every decision must be made in a context. The
9 decision to improve the construction of the Grain
10 Belt express, which I hope you will make, is being
11 considered in a context of a crisis that far too
12 any citizens and decision-makers are not
13 recognizing, let alone taking effective action to
14 address.

15 I refer, of course, to the climate change.
16 My greatest concern when I think about what kind of
17 future we are leaving for our kids and our
18 grandkids is climate change.

19 There are many problems facing humanity,
20 but only a handful of these are existential
21 threats. The one that stands most likely out to me
22 ask the likely to end the life as we know it is
23 climate change.

24 The concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere
25 has increased from 208 parts per million to more

1 than 400 ppm.

2 This dramatic rise is unprecedented. It
3 is worthy of note that most of this rise has come
4 in the last 30 years. If significant action is not
5 promptly taken to halt and reverse this build-up,
6 irreversible and highly detrimental changes to our
7 planetary environment, our certainties, our progeny
8 will be forced to deal with.

9 I'm not -- I'm not only talking about a
10 much more hotter planet, but also one with much
11 more extreme weather, including severe droughts,
12 super storms, excessive rainfall, flooding, fires
13 and more.

14 We are already seeing rising sea levels.
15 And in the coming decades, they will threaten
16 low-lying coastal areas around the world where a
17 large portion of humanity lives.

18 The combination of these factors would
19 likely lead to unprecedented mass migration.
20 Climate change also means reduced projection, loss
21 of bio diversity and the spread of insect-borne
22 disease.

23 It is in this context that the decisions
24 about energy policy and infrastructure must now be
25 made, including the decision on the clean line

1 Grain Belt Express power line.

2 I understand that some Missourians whose
3 property the proposed line will cross may not be
4 happy with this proposal. It is necessary,
5 however, to consider the overall benefit of a
6 project like this and weigh it against its costs.

7 I also trust the Clean Line will do
8 everything in its power to site the line as far as
9 possible from residents of property owners whose
10 land the lines will traverse.

11 I also hope that the Public Service
12 Commission will advise that there is an
13 over-reaching public interest in addressing the
14 climate change, and this involves seeing as much
15 very low carbon power be used in our state as
16 possible so as to phase out our carbon intensive
17 generation as quickly as possible.

18 Thank you for taking my concerns and those
19 of our members into account. Thank you.

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Carolyn Amperan?

23 CAROLYN AMPERAN,

24 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
25 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

1 TESTIMONY OF CAROLYN AMPERAN

2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
3 and spell your last name.

4 MS. AMPERAN: Carolyn Amperan, spelled
5 A-m-p-e-r-a-n. And I'm from Columbia.

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

7 MS. AMPERAN: I wanted to start off by
8 talking about Columbia's renewable energy standard.
9 This is the ordinance that is very popular with the
10 citizens of Columbia, and, in fact, so popular that
11 in 2014, the City Council increased our targets for
12 achieving renewable energy as part of our energy
13 mix.

14 And so by December 31st of 2022, Columbia
15 will need to obtain 25 percent of our energy from
16 renewable energy. And so, therefore, we are very
17 much -- I'm not speaking for Columbia. But as a
18 citizen of Columbia, I am very much in favor of the
19 Clean Line's Grain Belt Express to bring more
20 clean, renewable energy to Missouri.

21 Additionally, I wanted to address a couple
22 of points that people have made. One is that this
23 line had -- isn't considering the environmental
24 impacts of wildlife and the environment in
25 Missouri.

1 And so I wanted to bring up the point that
2 Clean Line has, of their own initiative, worked
3 extensively with the nature conservancy of Missouri
4 to design its line in a way to have minimal impact
5 on not only people, but the environmentally
6 sensitive areas and wildlife.

7 And I think that that was something that
8 they didn't have to do and that they have done and
9 it's a good thing for the environment, the people
10 and the wildlife of Missouri.

11 Additionally, people have brought up about
12 how Clean Line is a private company. Well, Clean
13 Line is a private company. However, Missouri
14 relies on numerous privately held companies to
15 provide utility services. And KCP&L and our other
16 local gas companies are all privately held
17 companies, and they provide utility service just
18 like Clean Line is proposing. And those are my
19 comments. Thank you.

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Tom Lutz or
21 Lutz?

22 TOM LATA,
23 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
24 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

25 TESTIMONY OF TOM LATA

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
2 and spell your last name.

3 MR. LATA: My name is Tom Lata. I live at
4 6901 West Charlene in Boone County.

5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Can you spell your last
6 name, please?

7 MR. LATA: L-a-t-a.

8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

9 MR. LATA: I also have property at 2194
10 East Fairfield Subdivision. I wanted to bring up
11 -- I worked for the Department of Economic
12 Development for 16 years, and I'm retired now. I
13 worked for many years there.

14 One thing I wanted to bring up is it
15 appears that the -- the proposed power line has the
16 capability of lowering utility costs substantially
17 over what's currently being generated.

18 I'm going to keep this short in the
19 interest of time. Basically, what that means for,
20 you know, a property owner is that the rent, the
21 total cost for -- to a renter is lower, and that
22 translates into the increased value of the
23 property. And that would also be the same for
24 owner occupied property.

25 So it's for people to benefit from a --

1 from the utility like this. So it's -- it really
2 helps everybody. So it's not just the big lawyers.
3 So it's pretty much across the board.

4 The other thing I want to bring up is it's
5 -- right now, Missouri is -- the vast majority of
6 power in Missouri is being generated to coal. And
7 I would think in the long run, we would want the
8 maximum non-burned sources of power to -- to
9 promote the reliability of the power grid as a
10 whole.

11 And I think Missouri's right now probably
12 at a disadvantage in that area. So the more
13 different sources of power we can get in the state,
14 I think in the long-run, the better off we will be.
15 Thanks for letting me speak.

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Tim Remole,
17 State Rep., Sixth District?

18 TIM REMOLE,
19 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
20 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

21 TESTIMONY OF TIM REMOLE

22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
23 and spell your last name.

24 MR. REMOLE: Tim Remole, R-e-m-o-l-e. I
25 live at 8932 State Highway C in Excel, Missouri.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

2 MR. REMOLE: I want to thank you all for
3 coming up and hearing testimony. I think it's
4 important that you hear not only people's feelings
5 but, also, some facts.

6 And there's been a war on coal, and I
7 don't think anybody can deny that. Coal is -- we
8 have a power plant that's right out here, Thomas
9 Hill Energy Center, that employs hundreds of
10 employees.

11 And they supply permanent jobs for years
12 and for years to come. They support our schools by
13 hundreds of thousands of dollars every single year.
14 And they've been doing that for over 30, 40 years.

15 It's been said that the coal-fired plants
16 are wearing out. And I will tell you, I've been in
17 numerous meetings with ACI, and the power plant is
18 like any old structure. It can be continually
19 rebuilt and it can run indefinitely.

20 They have shutdowns all the time, and it
21 brings in hundreds of jobs from everywhere you can
22 think of from Kansas City. When I testified before
23 the EPA out in Lenexa, Kansas, there was over 2,500
24 men in the pipefitters union that testified there
25 that they would lose their jobs if the coal-fired

1 plants are shut down.

2 93 percent of the pollution has been taken
3 out of the coal-fired plants. And there are new
4 technology continually being developed.

5 I've started -- the Sierra Club came and
6 told me numerous things that were untrue. They
7 came out and told me how terrible the Thomas Hill
8 Energy Center was, showed me a picture that was not
9 even the Thomas Hill Energy Center.

10 That's what prompted me to start tours
11 with representatives. And we've taken numerous
12 tours out here now of the power plant. And they're
13 amazed that most of the -- everything coming out of
14 there is steam.

15 They couldn't believe the use of the
16 representatives that come from -- that they cannot
17 believe they said there's no black smoke because
18 it's steam. So over 80 percent of our power comes
19 from coal.

20 Germany, Japan, Austria, all are going --
21 trying their best to get back to coal-fired plants
22 because it's the most reliable and clean source of
23 energy, and they know that it's reliable.

24 They tried the green way, and it hasn't
25 worked out. Companies are losing -- they're losing

1 companies coming back to other states because --
2 hopefully coming to our country because of the
3 power grid.

4 I serve on the Southern State Senators
5 Board. I've been to multiple states. And just
6 here recently this summer, I have a lot of concerns
7 about Grain Belt. That's why I'm opposing it as
8 it's currently proposed.

9 Grain Belt's saying 600,000 watts. I
10 traveled out to North Dakota. I was invited out
11 there to come to a energy summit on energy. As we
12 went through to going out to the walk-ins to look
13 at the oil fields, we crossed a DC line, the only
14 one in the United States where two DC lines cross.

15 And the Director of the Minerals of the
16 State of North Dakota was giving that tour, and he
17 said himself -- he said, You're going to go --
18 we're going to go under power lines of DC current,
19 and it's important that you understand that they've
20 got to be so high off the ground. And where they
21 cross, they have to maintain a 40-foot span at the
22 lowest point because of the fields that they
23 represent.

24 A DC line will create a huge magnetic
25 field up there. He said sometimes you can see they

1 turn totally green. And he also -- so I got up
2 there. And I went to the tour -- the front of the
3 bus. And I asked them -- and you can look this up
4 online and Google it.

5 It's the only place where two big DC lines
6 cross. I told him, I said, There is a DC line
7 being proposed to come across the State with
8 600,000 watts.

9 I said, The lowest point is 35 feet, 33 to
10 35 feet. And he said, You've got to be kidding me.
11 I hope that you're opposing that line. Because he
12 said, A tractor or anything going under that, it --
13 it could causes a big threat.

14 It will burn up a computer. It will do a
15 lot of things. He said, You better go against that
16 line for just safety factors.

17 And I think that if -- if this is the way
18 it is -- and right now I've looked at the National
19 Electronic Safety, the clearances. This line with
20 this many volts should not be at 35. They should
21 have already known that. It should be a lot higher
22 than that. And I think that you ought to consider
23 that.

24 And the NPUA -- I think that you ought to
25 look into maybe getting with them on their rate

1 increases if they get this line in. Thank you.

2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Having some trouble
3 reading this one. Is there a Mr. or Mrs. Mallory?
4 M-a-l-l -- first name starts with an F? I'm not
5 seeing anybody.

6 MR. MILLER: I guess that would be me,
7 Frank Miller. F-r-a-n-k M-i-l-l-e-r, if you can't
8 read my handwriting.

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Come on up.

10 FRANK MILLER,
11 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
12 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

13 TESTIMONY OF FRANK MILLER

14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
15 and spell your last name.

16 MR. MILLER: Frank Miller, M-i-l-l-e-r.

17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live,
18 sir?

19 MR. MILLER: 205 South Elm, Triplet.

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

21 MR. MILLER: I am three-quarters of a mile
22 away from the line. That's too close. That's all
23 I've got to say.

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Peter
25 Lavaute.

1 PETER LAVAUTE,
2 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
3 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

4 TESTIMONY OF PETER LAVAUTE

5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
6 and spell your last name.

7 MR. LAVAUTE: Peter Lavaute, L-a-v, as in
8 Victor, a-u-t-e.

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?

10 MR. LAVAUTE: 460 County Road 328,
11 Franklin, Missouri. I live off the Missouri River
12 bottoms.

13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

14 MR. LAVAUTE: Yeah. I'd like to talk
15 about the need for this. In my many different
16 careers -- I mean, that sounds a little silly, but
17 I had a year-long career, a year-long job as a
18 social worker for the Columbia Inner Faith Council
19 of Churches managing their emergency fund.

20 Well, this was a fund that assisted people
21 where other programs was -- were not able to do so.
22 While my specific mission was not to deal with
23 utility costs, utility costs and people in the
24 lower income levels on fixed incomes. And with
25 many of the jobs that people are having to take

1 these days that are temporary and do not have
2 full-time work and do not get benefits, every
3 dollar is harder and harder to come by. It's only
4 getting worse that way.

5 Also, in the rural areas, I am a member of
6 the Howard Electric Cooperative and, also, Boone
7 Electric Cooperative. I'm a double electric
8 cooperative member. I became aware that they were,
9 especially Howard Electric Cooperative were being
10 what people call climate deniers, but, really,
11 mostly heavy supporters of -- of only coal as the
12 -- the way to make it so that their people -- in
13 the rural areas in Howard County, there's only a
14 little more than 10,000 people. And many of them
15 are in pretty serious economic situations.

16 Both Senator Blunt's people, the electric
17 cooperative people, the mantra was, Oh, we can't do
18 anything about what we're doing because it will
19 severely economically impact our -- our most
20 vulnerable people, and we just -- we just can't do
21 that.

22 Well, the fact that this project has the
23 possibility of significantly lowering the cost
24 rather than raising it as the projections, if we
25 keep going down the same road we're going down,

1 that pretty well wipes out the excuses that I kept
2 being given when I was trying to address the
3 transition from a fossil fuel economy.

4 For years -- for a number of years, I had
5 -- I ran the first for-profit and then a non-profit
6 set of companies -- or organizations that dealt
7 with looking for solutions to especially
8 environmental energy problems.

9 We weren't terribly successful. We were
10 always looking for solutions, but generally there
11 was some sort of fatal flaw that -- that kept us
12 from being able to really get behind what -- what
13 proponents of the project or -- or technology were
14 bringing to the table.

15 When I heard about this Clean Line project
16 and the fact that this could rather than digging
17 big holes and putting pipelines rather than hauling
18 coal -- today, I was right by the Missouri River
19 and watched coal train after coal train, 120-plus
20 cars go by.

21 All that coal is being burned, and it's
22 not just the CO₂, which, of course, most of the
23 world thinks is an issue. But it's -- you know,
24 the movement of all this coal, the -- the dirtiness
25 of the burning, the sludge that comes from it.

1 But when I heard about this project, I
2 went, Wow, this is like a quantum leap solution to
3 allow us to get this clean energy which we have to
4 transition to from where it's being produced
5 efficiently to where it's being used.

6 But the real key will be to help all these
7 people who are on tight -- more than tight incomes.
8 Let's -- let's, you know, approve this and help
9 them pay their bills. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Raven
12 Mazingo?

13 RAVIN MAZINGO,
14 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
15 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

16 TESTIMONY OF RAVEN MAZINGO

17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
18 and spell your last name.

19 MS. MAZINGO: Yes. My name is Raven
20 Mazingo, M-o-z-i-n-g-o.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

22 MS. MAZINGO: I live on EE here in
23 Moberly.

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

25 MS. MAZINGO: I just want to thank you

1 guys for coming and listening to the residents of
2 our community and the concerns that we have with
3 this proposed clean line.

4 I come to you tonight with two different
5 views, One with a personal effect on how this line
6 is directly affecting my family and another view as
7 a business owner that has been in corporate America
8 for over 17 years.

9 I will state that I am against this line
10 and ask that you deny it. From a personal
11 perspective, I come from a family of five
12 daughters. Three of us are directly affected by
13 this line.

14 My youngest sister was one you heard
15 earlier who has two sons hopefully that will be
16 able to inherit their farm and carry on their
17 family traditions.

18 I myself am a landowner here in Moberly.
19 I worked very hard for 17 years as well as my
20 husband to be able to save enough money to purchase
21 land in this great country.

22 I own 66 acres. I have a little farm with
23 some horses, and I have five children. My hope is
24 they will have that farm and being able to carry on
25 the traditions that we're creating as new farmers

1 or new landowners.

2 As I listened tonight, I hear a lot about
3 taxes, and I hear a lot about jobs. One thing I
4 can tell you in my position in corporate America is
5 that usually it is very hard to create new wealth.

6 What I hear tonight is people excited
7 about a redistribution of wealth and a
8 redistribution of jobs.

9 The other thing that concerns me is our
10 landscape. I fly all around the County in order to
11 do my job. Each time I fly back into Missouri, my
12 heart feels at home because I see all the trees and
13 the hills and the farms that you can see from the
14 plane.

15 I travel to Illinois a lot, and I see the
16 distribution lines and the wind mills going through
17 Illinois, and it makes it kind of tough because
18 what you see is hundreds and hundreds of acres with
19 wind mills and huge distribution lines and farms
20 that are no longer attended by anyone.

21 They're just dormant. They are vacant.
22 Their barns are falling in. The homes are empty.
23 It just makes you wonder what those landscapes
24 looked like before those distribution lines came
25 through.

1 I wanted to also address the Commissioner
2 as well as local supporters that I'm surprised to
3 notice that most of them have given their
4 statements and left this evening.

5 I wonder if it's because their interests
6 are short-lived and temporary versus the landowners
7 that are here that have to live with these lines
8 for the rest of their lives.

9 I know that you're excited about the
10 opportunities and the money that this is going to
11 generate. But the only that thing I keep hearing
12 in my mind over and over again is temporary.
13 Temporary, temporary.

14 Working in corporate America, I see it
15 every day. I run my own business. It is a
16 for-profit business. I work with large companies
17 mainly in the Chicago area, and I've seen profit
18 being made every day with hard-working individuals
19 doing the best they can to support their families.

20 I have also worked for a very large
21 company, General Electric. They are a for-profit
22 company, as you know. They are very good at making
23 money.

24 And I heard tonight dollar amounts like 8
25 cents and County -- or cities like Centralia

1 getting a discount of two to three cents. But
2 knowing in my heart about how corporate America
3 works, I find it very hard to believe that a
4 company like Clean Line is going to leave 5 cents
5 per kilowatt on the table from here to -- you know,
6 how long is that going to last? It is temporary.

7 Another word that keeps -- the words just
8 keeps resonating with me. Are they really going to
9 leave 5 cents on the table from here on out? Why
10 would they do that? It makes no sense from a
11 corporate standpoint at all.

12 If they were non-profit, it makes perfect
13 sense. But they are not. Think about the current
14 utilities in our area, KCP&L, AmerenUE, the power
15 plants, the local farmers. Think about all of the
16 people that they employ. Think about all those
17 taxpayers. How much money they're supporting our
18 community right now and have been for 30 or 40
19 years.

20 You're going to be putting people out of
21 work. Again, this is a redistribution of wealth
22 and jobs. We're pulling money out of Missouri,
23 pushing it to some profit company that's going to
24 push all of that utility out east.

25 Now, if we're paying two or three cents

1 here and the people in the east are willing to pay
2 eight cents -- because I guarantee you their prices
3 are probably more expensive than ours, do you
4 really think Clean Line is going to give us that
5 energy?

6 No. They're going to redistribute it out
7 east. They're going to hike up our prices, and all
8 that we're going to be left with is a landscape of
9 200-foot towers everywhere you look.

10 This building is two and a half stories.
11 Imagine 200 feet. That's ten stories everywhere
12 you look.

13 I didn't get to all my points, but I just
14 want to also drive home what if this company sells
15 to a foreign entity? Where will we be then?

16 I ask you all to put yourself in the shoes
17 of the landowners here tonight and put Missouri's
18 interest ahead of corporate interest. Thank you
19 for your time.

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Dee Dokken.

21 DEE DOKKEN,
22 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
23 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

24 TESTIMONY OF DEE DOKKEN

25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name

1 and spell your last name.

2 MS. DOKKEN: Dee Dokken, D-o-k-k-e-n.

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

4 MS. DOKKEN: Columbia, Missouri.

5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

6 MS. DOKKEN: I'm in favor of the Grain
7 Belt Line because it delivers clean, renewable
8 energy to Missouri residents and businesses.

9 I grew up Kansas, and I know that there
10 ample wind energy is an important national resource
11 that needs to get out of western Kansas and move
12 where there are people, infrastructure, and most
13 important, water, which they don't have in western
14 Kansas and will have less and less of.

15 So I look to the future. We need to
16 diversify the State and the nation's energy, and
17 this is part of that.

18 On the other hand, though, I am very moved
19 by what I've heard tonight from landowners. And I
20 would really like to see that their losses are
21 mitigated and fairly compensated for more -- more
22 than just the acreage that an easement has because
23 it affects more than that. Thank you.

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Julie Plaster?

2 JULIE PLASTER,

3 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
4 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

5 TESTIMONY OF JULIE PLASTER

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
7 and spell your last name.

8 MS. PLASTER: My name is Julie Plaster,
9 P-l-a-s-t-e-r. I reside here in Moberly, Missouri.
10 I am a landowner, not necessarily directly in the
11 path of this project, but close enough.

12 I want to speak in opposition of this
13 project. I have yet to be convinced of the dollars
14 saved, the jobs saved, the flexibility of how much
15 per kilowatt.

16 I am not convinced the information that we
17 have been given historically on this project is
18 truthful. In fact, I feel like a lot of it has
19 been misinformation and continues to be so.

20 I am asking you to oppose this and to deny
21 this application on a variety of reasons. First
22 and foremost, I absolutely love Missouri. I love
23 living here.

24 I lived on the East Coast while I served
25 my country in the United States Navy. I came back,

1 finished my undergraduate and got my business
2 degree.

3 I have found that I absolutely love being
4 here, and I have learned to appreciate what my
5 forefathers, my grandparents and my family has done
6 for this community in Missouri, and I want it to
7 continue.

8 I do not want to see the structures in my
9 skyline in rural Missouri. I know there is no
10 proof of property value increases along this
11 journey.

12 I think there are health risks that have
13 been pushed aside somewhat. I don't think there's
14 enough health risk information. I think there's a
15 high level of safety concerns.

16 And I think Tim Remole mentioned the
17 footage separation in the engineering design alone
18 is going to be a bit of a challenge with those
19 ideas.

20 I understand that it's -- there is no
21 guarantees for these benefits. There's no
22 guarantees that we will have cheaper energy.

23 I also want to say something about
24 Associated Electric and our coal production here in
25 Randolph County.

1 I -- I honestly feel that Associated
2 Electric has been forward in their efforts to
3 control any potential pollution or any concerns of
4 that. They have always stepped -- been a little
5 bit ahead of the Clean Air Act regulations, and I
6 appreciate their efforts to do so. And they
7 continue to do that.

8 Property values, there is no more land.
9 People that are landowners have it for a reason.
10 We don't produce more land. It goes from one
11 family to another. But you can't make more land.

12 There is no way that the -- that once this
13 has been tainted, there's no way to un-do the
14 property -- I view this as property damage because
15 of the skyline, the radiation.

16 Then we can talk about the costs that we
17 absolutely have zero proof that will actually come
18 into fruition. No. 1, we do not need it here in
19 Missouri. We have good, reliable -- I think we
20 have good, reliable power here in Missouri. And I
21 would like for it to stay that way.

22 I just don't see the dollar public, the
23 dollar feasibility. There's -- there's no way to
24 guarantee those things won't fluctuate in the
25 future.

1 The depreciation to the land values, once
2 I -- I feel like once the land is tainted, that
3 cannot ever, ever, ever be undone.

4 I oppose this project, and that is one of
5 the reasons why I voted for our County Commissioner
6 John Hobbs, because he also, as my representative
7 in the County, opposed this.

8 And they talk about this being a benefit
9 to the public. The landowners that do not want
10 this are the public as well. They don't want to
11 sacrifice their way of life. I don't want them to
12 sacrifice it.

13 I just ask that you oppose this project
14 and deny -- deny Clean Line this opportunity to
15 move forward with this project. Thank you for your
16 time.

17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Michael Whitmore?

18 MICHAEL WHITMORE,
19 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
20 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

21 TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL WHITMORE

22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
23 and spell your last name.

24 MR. WHITMORE: Michael Whitmore,
25 W-h-i-t-m-o-r-e.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

2 MR. WHITMORE: O'Fallon, Missouri.

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

4 MR. WHITMORE: Like many of the people
5 here, I've been born and raised in Missouri. And I
6 spent my whole life here. I went to the University
7 down the road, Mizzou.

8 And when I heard about the project, I
9 wanted to take the opportunity to give my support
10 of the project. I think it has many benefits.

11 I spent 24 years in the engineering and
12 utility field. And I believe that these kind of
13 projects have a lot of benefits to the public as a
14 whole.

15 A lot of benefits have been articulated by
16 others, but I'll talk to you on the ones that I
17 believe in. The -- the jobs that will be given in
18 the state manufacturing, supporting the
19 construction of the line, construction jobs,
20 lateral commercial benefits as the construction is
21 going on, property taxes, landowner compensation
22 and lower energy costs.

23 I believe there is a true benefit to
24 having a transmission line coming from Kansas into
25 Missouri and the renewable energy that's available.

1 That is something that you're not going to get in
2 Missouri. We just don't have the wind resources.

3 And I also heard a few other things that
4 the line, I believe, would be constructed -- all
5 these lines are constructed in the same safety
6 manners. So I don't think safety or construction
7 or engineering compliance is really truly a factor
8 for the public interest. Thank you.

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Mark Birch? Mark Birch?

12 MARK BIRCH,
13 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
14 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

15 TESTIMONY OF MARK BIRCH

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
17 and spell your last name.

18 MR. BIRCH: Mark Birch, B-i-r-c-h.

19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

20 MR. BIRCH: Ralls County.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

22 MR. BIRCH: I've sat in here on a couple
23 of different meetings that you've had and listened
24 to people talk and speak about this. And, you
25 know, kind of trying to wrap my mind around it,

1 trying to see everyone's point of view.

2 What I'm hearing is everybody that can
3 make a quick buck off of this is right there ready
4 to step up here and say, I'm all for it. Everybody
5 that's willing to lose something or has some skin
6 in the game is against it.

7 You know, the people of Missouri have been
8 told here tonight that the wind doesn't blow in
9 Missouri. And I've lived in Kansas. I've lived in
10 North Dakota, South Dakota. I've worked all over
11 this country. Anybody go outside today? The wind
12 blows here, too.

13 There's -- there's no reason that we have
14 to send this power clear across the country to get
15 to other places when they have the same wind blows
16 through this state that blows through Kansas that
17 blows through Indiana and Illinois.

18 It should be done on a -- a short -- the
19 shortest way possible. And if they are going to
20 build this line, I'm -- I'm also wondering why it's
21 not going down Highway 35. Or Highway 36 goes from
22 St. Joe right to -- right to Hannibal. It's got
23 four lanes of traffic that, you know, they could
24 bring it in, build it, look over it, take care of
25 it.

1 But, apparently, that's not good enough
2 for the right-of-way that the State already owns.
3 I don't understand why they have to basically take
4 everybody else's property to get something done
5 that would be in a straight line from west to east
6 that they could do just right down the Highway 36
7 corridor.

8 There's several other things that I think
9 are being overlooked on this deal. So, you know,
10 the people that want to build this want to make
11 money.

12 Now, I raise cattle. I raise horses. If
13 I can get continue cents a pound more for my cattle
14 over here than I can get at this place over there,
15 that's where I'm going to go because that's how I
16 make my living.

17 Why would it be any different for a
18 corporation that's trying to sell power from one
19 place to another? If they can get more money at
20 this place, they're going to send it right on
21 through.

22 The other thing is it's a DC power.
23 You can't drop it into an AC grid. So they're
24 going to have to take a whole new substation to
25 break that down and change it. How much is that

1 going to cost? Or is that giving in on the deal?
2 We get a hundred million dollar converter, you
3 know, with -- with the price of this deal, or is
4 that on us to pick up the tab for that so we can
5 use this power back within our own -- back in our
6 own communities?

7 It just seems -- seems odd to me that --
8 that everybody that gets to make the decision on
9 this doesn't have any skin in the game. All folks
10 that are tied to this, would you be willing to put
11 your name down, and if anything goes wrong, you
12 lose your house, you lose your properties, you lose
13 your stuff because you didn't see this or whatever
14 -- you put this all on everybody else.

15 It just doesn't make any sense to me that,
16 you know, a few people get to make all the
17 decisions for everybody else and get to control
18 what they've worked so hard to put together.

19 The health risks in this, we spent a lot
20 more time with our environmental studies looking
21 around to save a salamander that nobody's ever
22 seen, nobody's for to know what it does. We've got
23 to shut down projects for ten years just to do
24 that.

25 But we can't shut down this project and

1 study what it's going to do and what the radiation
2 and what something like this is going to have to do
3 with children that are -- it's -- it's just in this
4 short distance going by five different schools that
5 I've heard here tonight.

6 And so I think a lot more thought needs to
7 go into this and a lot more -- you know, a lot more
8 studying needs to go into what's going on. Thank
9 you.

10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Dan Kertz.

11 DAN KERTZ,
12 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
13 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

14 TESTIMONY OF DAN KERTZ

15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: State your name and spell
16 your last name.

17 MR. KERTZ: Dan Kertz, K-e-r-t-z.

18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: I don't think your
19 microphone is working.

20 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Will you test your
21 mic? Will you tap on it?

22 PERSON IN AUDIENCE: Powered by Clean
23 Line.

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live, sir?

25 MR. KERTZ: Randolph County.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. Please go ahead.

2 MR. KERTZ: My farm and my family are in
3 Chariton County. The line will cross two of our
4 properties and substantially interfere with our
5 work.

6 I've seen minimal benefit to Missouri
7 residents. We have plenty of local electric
8 supply. Wind power is not economically viable. It
9 costs two to three times more to generate
10 electricity according to studies.

11 It is only in demand because our
12 Government has mandated it. Power lines are an
13 eyesore, devaluing my property -- a huge liability
14 risk as my family and employees my operate around
15 these towers.

16 They will also prevent future irrigation
17 on my properties the power lines will be on.
18 Without our administration closing functioning
19 power plants and heavily subsidizing wind power
20 with our taxes, it would not even be a viable
21 entity or alternative for electricity.

22 We are 18 trillion dollars in debt and
23 growing. Social Security is expected to be broke
24 in 16 years. And we are wasting our money on power
25 -- wind power, and it's going broke in Europe as we

1 speak.

2 On top of that, the Trump Administration
3 will almost certainly restart mothball coal power
4 plants out east. Why are we wasting taxpayer
5 money, devaluating our property and decimating our
6 beautiful rural landscape with ugly wind turbines
7 and power lines?

8 I might add that our home farm is within
9 three miles of the Thomas Hill Coal Power Plant.
10 I've lived there for almost 50 years. I've worked
11 and lived there. And we have no one in our family
12 that has had health risks from that power plant.
13 Thank you.

14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Roy Mazingo?

15 ROY MAZINGO,
16 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
17 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

18 TESTIMONY OF ROY MAZINGO

19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: State your name and spell
20 your last name.

21 MR. MAZINGO: Roy Mazingo, M-a-z-i-n-g-o.

22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

23 MR. MAZINGO: Highway EE, Moberly.

24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Sir, please go ahead.

25 MR. MAZINGO: I would like to reiterate

1 that people of Randolph County are still here. I
2 don't think we've heard -- we've heard several
3 speakers. No one in favor of the project from
4 Randolph County thus far. And I'm pretty sure this
5 is -- you're here dealing with the residents of
6 Randolph County.

7 First, a couple of speakers, I keep
8 hearing reduced costs. I'm not aware -- I'm not
9 extremely well-read, but I'm not aware of a study
10 where Clean Line or wind energy is cheaper to
11 produce than the electrical grid or the energy
12 maintenance that we have now already in place. So
13 I -- I'm not sure if that -- I'd like to see that
14 information or wherever it comes from, some facts.
15 We'd like facts and see if -- if those numbers that
16 they're -- they're touting include subsidies.

17 Because like a previous speaker said, this
18 project doesn't exist without subsidies. Another
19 speaker spoke to the economics of this project and
20 what it -- what it would do for the City.

21 Well, those kind of economics that take
22 huge subsidies to support are why we have an 18
23 trillion dollar deficit. They don't work.

24 And, again, taxpayers in the end pick up
25 the bills, so who is it really cheaper for? It's

1 kind of a repeat of our -- the last meeting that
2 was held in Randolph County in which later the
3 application was denied.

4 Our Commissioners at that time decided to
5 speak in favor after hearing much like tonight
6 maybe one or two residents and a roomful of
7 residents opposed and decided to speak in favor of
8 the project.

9 They're not with us anymore. I'd like to
10 give a thank you to Tim Remole, our State
11 Representative, for actually representing our
12 interests.

13 And one more on another -- reiterate
14 again, we don't get to leave when this is done.
15 We're still here in Randolph County. People from
16 the other counties, they get to leave and drive
17 home. We're still here. And we're not going
18 anywhere. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. That's all
21 the names that I have on the list that have signed
22 up to testify. Is there anybody else that would
23 like to testify that has not and did not testify
24 either yesterday or earlier today?

25 MR. BAUER: I would.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please come forward.

2 BOB BAUER,

3 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
4 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

5 TESTIMONY OF BOB BAUER

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name and spell
7 your last name.

8 MR. BAUER: My name is Bob Bauer,
9 B-a-u-e-r.

10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?

11 MR. BAUER: I live here in Randolph
12 County, have most of my life like a lot of the
13 other people here.

14 And I think there's somebody else that
15 said that they wanted to speak, too, but I was
16 going to try to sum up what I've heard tonight.

17 I'm a historian. That's one of the
18 reasons I'm dressed the way I am, wearing my hair
19 the way I do. I do re-enacting, but I've studied
20 history. I have a degree in that.

21 Some of my ancestors, by the way, lost
22 their land, lost their land back in the early
23 1800s. They're now out in what's called Oklahoma.
24 And it was because of money, not because it did
25 something good for the entire population of this

1 country or this Continent.

2 This whole thing isn't about whether or
3 not we've got green energy. It's not about saving
4 the environment. It's about money.

5 In my experience, I've seen a few scams
6 take place. And that's what I smell here. I think
7 Mamtech was mentioned. But when Grain Belt first
8 came into my area of knowledge, I guess you could
9 say, the only thing that they were talking about
10 was taking winds in Kansas, making electricity with
11 it and sending it to Indiana.

12 They weren't doing a thing for the people
13 here in Missouri, especially not in Randolph
14 County. I would think it was rather clandestine
15 that they went to County officials before it became
16 public knowledge for those of us that were citizens
17 and going to be affected by it.

18 This is not about serving the people.
19 It's about making money for a group of investors.
20 Thank you very much.

21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: I believe there was
22 another gentleman that wanted to testify. Can you
23 come forward?

24 ART CRUTCHFIELD,
25 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole

1 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

2 TESTIMONY OF ART CRUTCHFIELD

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
4 can spell your last name.

5 MR. CRUTCHFIELD: Art Crutchfield,
6 C-r-u-t-c-h-f-i-e-l-d.

7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?

8 MR. CRUTCHFIELD: Huntsville, Missouri.

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.

10 MR. CRUTCHFIELD: Well, we come up here
11 tonight, and, guys, I'll be honest with you, I see
12 a lot of my neighbors and friends up here.

13 And I heard about all this going on. This
14 line is going to come through about a thousand feet
15 from -- from my home. It's going to pass about 700
16 feet south of my south fence line.

17 As Mr. Bauer spoke a while ago and -- and
18 -- I mean, everything I've heard on it, I've heard
19 both sides, and I've listened to both sides.

20 But I do honestly believe we're talking
21 big business. We're talking money. And we're
22 talking money. I spent 20 years on the road doing
23 environmental clean-ups, cleaning up the yellow
24 cake, cleaning up asbestos, every nasty thing you
25 could clean up, digging out of pits that man had

1 put there.

2 Now we're talking about putting a line
3 across the land I grew up on. I haven't moved
4 three miles from where I lived. And there's a lot
5 of folks here will tell you that. They know me.

6 I think it's sad we're -- we're looking at
7 money here. And I want to know -- we keep talking
8 -- Centralia was talking about how they're going to
9 get a cheaper rate. Have they guaranteed them
10 that? Have they told them that's going to be for
11 the next 20 years, we're going to keep you cheaper?

12 I don't think they -- guys, the lady over
13 there that was talking about they left 5 cents on
14 the table. Big business don't do that. There's a
15 reason behind it.

16 We're talking about generating -- they're
17 talking about generating more tax money for
18 Randolph County and all these counties it's going
19 through. But we also talked about shutting
20 Associated Electric down.

21 Well, what happened to that? All that
22 money that supported us for years. You know,
23 that's the thing I look at, the pros and the cons.

24 I know we have to move forward. We don't
25 like change. Nobody likes change. But we have to.

1 That's part of it. I've traveled all over the
2 United States doing this stuff and working for
3 these big companies. And I'm telling you, I -- I'm
4 proud to say it and I'm ashamed to say it. I made
5 the company a 54 percent profit margin on
6 \$15 million.

7 It's big business, boys. That's what it's
8 about. You guys have got a tough decision. And I
9 guess the -- the last thing I want to close with is
10 this. You all voted on this a year ago. You voted
11 it down.

12 How many times are we going to vote on it?
13 If they fail this time, do we come back here a year
14 from now and we vote on it again? And as far as
15 the economics of the thing and these four -- these
16 communities that can't afford power in November, we
17 voted and the American people spoke. Whether you
18 liked it or not, Mr. Trump's going to take care of
19 them people.

20 That's what we -- that's what it's about
21 every night. But it's all about one thing. It's
22 about big business and how to get their money.
23 That's all I've got for you all. Thank you for
24 your time. Appreciate you coming and taking time
25 out of your life.

1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Is there anybody else who
2 would like to testify?

3 RONALD HUTCHINSON,
4 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
5 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

6 TESTIMONY OF RONALD HUTCHINSON

7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
8 and spell your last name.

9 MR. HUTCHINSON: Ronald Hutchinson.

10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: I'm sorry. What was it?

11 MR. HUTCHINSON: Ronald Hutchinson,
12 H-u-t-c-h-i-n-s-o-n.

13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?

14 MR. HUTCHINSON: Salsbury.

15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

16 MR. HUTCHINSON: I'm here to speak against
17 the Grain Belt proposal, especially the part of
18 using eminent domain to obtain the easements.

19 They are attempting to purchase these
20 easements at agricultural values. And when they
21 get them, Grain Belt more than likely won't even
22 build a line. They will sell the easements to
23 another firm that will triple the profit.

24 And this is absolutely wrong. When the
25 Constitution of this country was written, Thomas

1 Jefferson was opposed to any form of eminent
2 domain. But he was overruled in the compromises
3 that were made then. So we live like that.

4 But eminent domain has always meant that
5 it's done for a local program to benefit the local
6 people. Whether it's a school, a road, a new sewer
7 plant or whatever it is, it's done to benefit the
8 local people.

9 What really got me out of my seat tonight
10 was something that I heard earlier. I attended the
11 Marceline meeting this morning or at noon. And I
12 think it's a good idea that we -- just one person
13 just speak at one -- one meeting. That expedited
14 it considerably.

15 But when I was up there, there was a
16 representative of Hubbell Electric that spoke in
17 favor of it. There was also a representative of
18 Hubbell Electric who spoke here tonight. I don't
19 know whether it was the same man.

20 But the principle is the same. This firm
21 who is in favor of Grain Belt had two opportunities
22 to have testimony entered into the -- into the
23 record. And everybody that's opposed to it only
24 has one opportunity too enter into the record.

25 So this does not give us a level playing

1 field. It is tilted in favor of those who support
2 the program? Thank you.

3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: There was somebody else,
4 I think, in the back who wanted to testify.

5 JOHN VEAMON,
6 being first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
7 truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

8 TESTIMONY OF JOHN VEAMON

9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
10 span spell your last name.

11 MR. VEAMON: John Veamon, V-e-a-m-o-n.

12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live,
13 sir?

14 MR. VEAMON: I live at 2723 County Road
15 2160, Huntsville.

16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.

17 MR. VEAMON: I'm sitting here listening
18 to several of these people talking tonight, and I
19 really didn't plan on coming up and talk.

20 I definitely oppose this Grain Belt
21 project. I -- there is a personal reason. I
22 worked 40 years in the oil business. I was lucky
23 enough to work 40 years at the same refinery. I
24 watched big business for many, many years.

25 And I kind of had to laugh when I keep

1 hearing this -- all this cheap rates and certain
2 percentage they're going to leave on the table.
3 Well, big business doesn't do that.

4 But, also, too, one big thing up here that
5 I've noticed since I moved here, people need to pay
6 more attention to this power plant up here because
7 if that old power plant goes away, Randolph County
8 is broke. They're broke down. But that tax dollar
9 that them people pay up there supports this whole
10 county.

11 Clean energy, let me tell you. If they
12 would just help these power plants refineries,
13 whatever, to be able to get the permits easier for
14 the new technology, that's one of the big
15 bottlenecks of this country.

16 In Illinois where I worked for 40 years,
17 the last big major project that I was on was three
18 coal plants. And I can tell you this. That
19 project was already in place about 42 percent
20 complete, and we still didn't have the permits.

21 We finally got the permits, but Conoco
22 Phillips had to spend lots of money to finally get
23 the permits. The technology is there. But you've
24 got to help the power plants. You've got to help
25 these people to get those technologies in there.

1 But I also have a personal feeling about
2 this. My wife and I, we saved for years. I worked
3 40 years. She worked 38 and a half years as a
4 supervisor back in St. Louis.

5 We came up in this County. I liked it. I
6 found a farm, and I bought. In fact, I guess I was
7 coming -- hopefully not stupid enough, but I did.
8 I bought another one right next to it.

9 This projected line is going to go through
10 both these farms now. I have a wife that has MS.
11 And I've been in the process of trying to think
12 down the road of what I could do if -- if my fixed
13 income didn't cover her medical costs down the
14 road.

15 So I've been thinking about investing
16 money into that farm, both farms, trying to set it
17 up to where I could get some kind of extra income
18 down the road if I needed it for her medical costs.

19 And everybody knows medical costs
20 definitely keeps going up. But if this proposed
21 line is permitted to come through, everything that
22 I've invested, the money, the back breaking work
23 and hiring people grow locally to help me get
24 things done, trying to get this business started
25 will be down the tubes. And it's just like

1 throwing money out the window.

2 But anyway, I -- I thank you for your
3 time, and I definitely hope you do not support this
4 clean line. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Thank you.

6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: I didn't see any other
7 hands. Was there anybody else? Well, I'd like to
8 thank you all for coming tonight and participating.
9 This hearing is adjourned. We're off the record.

10 (The proceedings were concluded at 9:05 p.m. on
11 December 8, 2016.)

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25

	I N D E X	
		PAGE
1		
2		
3	Testimony of Jeffrey Owen	7
4	Testimony of Candace Dowlin	11
5	Testimony of Erin Koch	15
6	Testimony of John Bondy	16
7	Testimony of Gary Kribbs	20
8	Testimony of James Lee	24
9	Testimony of Matthew Harline	27
10	Testimony of Craig Fuller	32
11	Testimony of Kathy Baker	33
12	Testimony of William Anglen	35
13	Testimony of Lois Bragg	38
14	Testimony of Debbie Hodges	40
15	Testimony of Mike Diel	43
16	Testimony of James Harmon	45
17	Testimony of Tim Bennett	49
18	Testimony of Phil Brown	50
19	Testimony of Joe Kroner	54
20	Testimony of Rose Kroner	58
21	Testimony of Robin Henke	60
22	Testimony of John Hobbs	65
23	Testimony of John Bliven	68
24	Testimony of Richard McClure, III	71
25	Testimony of Eric Cenovich	72

1	I N D E X (CONTINUED)	
2		PAGE
3	Testimony of Becky Otwell	75
4	Testimony of Alma Fetahovic	75
5	Testimony of Jeff Kroner	76
6	Testimony of Rod Sachtleben	81
7	Testimony of Steve Adams	84
8	Testimony of Joan Wilcox	87
9	Testimony of Carolyn Amperan	90
10	Testimony of Tom Lata	92
11	Testimony of Tim Remole	94
12	Testimony of Frank Miller	99
13	Testimony of Peter Lavaute	100
14	Testimony of Raven Mazingo	103
15	Testimony of Dee Dokken	108
16	Testimony of Julie Plaster	110
17	Testimony of Michael Whitmore	113
18	Testimony of Mark Birch	115
19	testimony of Dan Kertz	119
20	Testimony of Roy Mazingo	121
21	Testimony of Bob Bauer	124
22	testimony of Art Crutchfield	126
23	Testimony of Ronald Hutchinson	129
24	Testimony of John Veamon	131
25	Reporter's Certificate	138

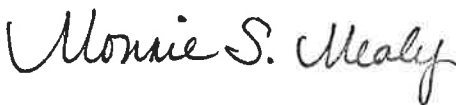
1	E X H I B I T S		
2	EXHIBIT	DESCRIPTION	IDENTIFIED
3	Exhibit 33	Document	15
4	Exhibit 34	Written Statement of	54
5		Phil Brown	
6			
7			
8			
9	(The original exhibits were retained by		
10	Judge Bushmann.)		
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13			
14			
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss.
COUNTY OF OSAGE)

I, Monnie S. Mealy, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
Certified Court Reporter #0538, and Registered Professional
Reporter, within and for the State of Missouri, do hereby
certify that I was personally present at the proceedings as
set forth in the caption sheet hereof; that I then and there
took down in stenotype the proceedings had at said time and
was thereafter transcribed by me, and is fully and accurately
set forth in the preceding pages.



Monnie S. Mealy, CSR, CCR #0538
Registered Professional Reporter

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

A	activists 41:9	90:12	93:8 95:1	52:1,2,3,7
A-d-a-m-s 84:13	actual 53:14	aerial 42:24	99:20 100:13	amount 6:4
A-m-p-e-r-a-n	Adams 84:6,7	62:9	103:24 108:18	52:22 79:5
91:5	84:10,13,13,15	affect 36:20	109:5 112:5	amounts 15:11
A-n-g-i-e-n	84:17 136:7	37:17,19 62:8	114:3 115:21	106:24
35:19	add 26:1 30:9	63:6,6	120:1 121:24	Amperan 90:22
A-n-g-l-e-n 36:1	64:16,23 121:8	affiliate 85:4	126:9 129:15	90:23 91:1,4,4
36:2	added 30:2,7	afford 30:21	131:16	91:7 136:9
a-u-t-e 100:8	64:3	128:16	ailments 46:19	ample 109:10
AA 55:5 59:2	addition 25:8,23	affordable 18:7	47:20	ancestors
abatement	39:19 47:12	39:14	air 46:10,13	124:21
56:16 80:23,24	70:18 82:8	afraid 81:2	47:17 48:1,16	anchoring 69:15
81:1	83:14	Agathen 2:17	112:5	anchors 86:16
abatements	additional 47:11	4:21,21	airing 8:4	Angien 35:18
52:22	48:8 65:17	age 61:7	Alderman 24:24	Anglen 35:20,23
able 6:22 15:13	Additionally	agents 83:22	Aldermen 26:15	36:1,1,5,8
25:17 38:14	13:25 76:11	ages 17:17	Alliance 2:16	135:12
43:11 100:21	83:19 91:21	ago 31:4 42:3	4:20 29:24	animals 36:21
102:12 104:16	92:11	55:17 126:17	allocated 37:20	annually 13:20
104:20,24	additions 47:15	128:10	allow 25:2 30:20	39:7 56:20
132:13	address 6:25	agreement	31:17 103:3	answer 6:22
absolutely	11:13 88:14	25:14 26:20	allowed 25:16	22:5,8,17
110:22 111:3	91:21 102:2	39:18 67:6	allowing 40:9	anybody 80:25
112:17 129:24	106:1	79:3 85:6,10	71:6	95:7 99:5
abusive 55:15	addressed 12:6	agreements 66:3	allows 19:4	116:11 123:22
AC 117:23	13:22 15:8	85:7	Alma 75:20,21	129:1 134:7
accessible 60:5	addresses 88:6	agricultural	75:24 76:2	anymore 123:9
account 15:6	addressing	9:10 19:2	136:4	anyway 134:2
90:19	90:13	129:20	alternate 15:1	apart 23:19 61:2
accrue 48:19	adds 48:2	agriculture	alternative	apparently
accurately	adequate 57:17	18:24	120:21	117:1
52:11 138:13	adjacent 57:24	ahead 4:7 7:20	amateur 37:18	appearance
achieving 91:12	adjourned	11:9 16:9 17:8	amazed 96:13	4:10 5:3
ACI 95:17	134:9	17:17 20:19	ambulance 9:14	appears 6:8
acquiring 55:24	administration	22:16 24:12	Amendment	93:15
acre 36:11,13	79:14 120:18	28:5 32:7	27:3	appease 79:6
37:10 64:21	121:2	33:17 36:7	AmerenUE	applaud 12:7
acreage 36:9	administratio...	38:9 40:24	44:15 107:14	application 1:10
109:22	18:15	44:6 46:5	America 18:25	3:7 5:14 24:15
acres 23:23 35:4	Administrator	49:17 50:23	19:5 84:24	26:2 28:14
35:7,7 36:8,15	28:7 31:8 32:9	55:7 59:4	86:24 104:7	51:6 54:17
65:15,17	32:11	60:25 65:11	105:4 106:14	60:11 62:9
104:22 105:18	admit 54:9	68:18 72:4	107:2	110:21 123:3
act 49:4 112:5	adopted 27:2	73:7 75:10	American 18:8	apply 53:5
action 88:13	ads 56:21	76:6 77:3	81:25,25 82:1	appreciate 8:3
89:4	advances 76:12	81:16 84:16	128:17	54:10 111:4
active 41:16	advise 51:24	87:19 91:6	Amish 42:18	112:6 128:24

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

approach 15:14	3:12 58:8	aware 101:8	beauty 19:8	78:15,21 79:1
approval 74:20	111:24 112:1	122:8,9	Becky 74:23,24	79:9 80:21,22
approve 16:20	127:20		75:2,5 136:3	80:24 82:4,10
33:3 40:6 49:5	Association	B	begins 53:20	83:2 84:19
103:8	81:25	B 68:14 137:1	behalf 32:25	85:5,16 88:10
approved 26:3	assuming 37:3	B-a-k-e-r 33:13	33:1 38:15	90:1 91:19
66:3 81:21	assurance 83:21	B-a-u-e-r 124:9	believe 9:17	97:7 109:7
approving 39:1	asthma 41:12,21	B-e-c-k-y 75:5	15:7 52:12	125:7 129:17
approximately	46:19	B-e-n-n-e-t-t	53:1,13 65:20	129:21 130:21
38:16 59:19	Atlanta 33:15	49:14	66:11 67:22	131:20
88:1	atmosphere	B-i-r-c-h 115:18	68:2,25 75:14	Belt's 51:6 52:4
area 11:24 16:16	48:22 49:2	B-o-n-d-y 17:5	80:25 96:15,17	52:8 53:4,11
26:10 46:9,12	88:24	B-r-a-g-g 38:5	107:3 114:12	53:15 54:16
46:20 47:3	attach 54:6	B-r-o-w-n 50:19	114:17,23	57:12 97:9
80:10,13,17	attacks 19:2	back 9:13 18:24	115:4 125:21	beneath 34:4
82:11 83:17	attempting	62:17 63:11	126:20	benefit 8:10,21
85:19,22 88:2	129:19	72:11,16 83:17	belly 55:25	8:22 9:5,9 27:7
94:12 106:17	attend 32:17	96:21 97:1	Belt 1:10 2:21	27:9 29:18,20
107:14 125:8	attended 105:20	105:11 110:25	3:8 4:10 5:14	31:15,16 46:13
areas 40:1 57:23	130:10	118:5,5 124:22	8:14 10:6 12:7	55:14,21 56:2
58:1 70:13	attending 41:5	128:13 131:4	12:13 16:12,20	57:15 68:2
78:9 89:16	attention 132:6	133:4,22	17:10 18:19	69:20 70:21
92:6 101:5,13	Attorney 2:13	bad 47:2 64:2	19:6,11 20:6	73:20,25 74:14
Arkansas 82:24	2:18,22	badly 63:6	23:25 24:16	74:17,21 80:6
arsenic 46:24	attract 45:2	Baker 33:6,7,10	27:10 28:15	80:12 85:14
Art 125:24	auction 61:18	33:13,13,15,18	35:1 39:3,15	90:5 93:25
126:2,5 136:22	auctioned 64:17	135:11	40:7 43:16	113:8 114:23
article 13:16	audience 5:5	balance 19:13	45:1,3 48:15	120:6 130:5,7
articulated	119:22	Baldwin 81:15	51:1,2,11,11	benefits 25:7
114:15	Audrain 41:14	bankruptcy	51:13,16,19	26:13 30:1
asbestos 126:24	August 26:16	56:9	52:9,10,20	31:16 47:5
ashamed 128:4	Austria 96:20	barns 105:22	53:3,7,13,16	48:15 49:2
aside 111:13	authority 66:4	base 10:13 35:6	53:18,21 54:13	68:21 70:4,17
asked 11:24	authorizing	44:21	55:10 56:13	70:18 73:17,22
12:4 35:3	1:11 3:9 26:16	based 84:24	57:3,20 59:11	74:2,3,5 80:18
44:16 67:16,17	available 6:17	85:19,21	59:16 60:10	82:6 101:2
98:3	57:5,6 114:25	basement 41:18	65:18,20,25	111:21 114:10
asking 22:16	Avenue 46:3	basic 14:5	66:4,4,9,13,13	114:13,15,20
32:25 33:3	average 79:15	basically 11:15	66:16,18,23,25	Bennett 49:7,8
110:20	80:2	15:9,18 93:19	67:6,10,12,18	49:11,14,14,16
aspects 73:19	avidly 21:22	117:3	67:23,24,25	49:18 135:17
asphalt 86:14	23:24	Bates 38:7	68:1,2,3,20	best 33:4 39:5
assessments	avoid 28:13	Bauer 123:25	69:12,19 70:5	96:21 106:19
56:15	53:23	124:2,5,8,8,11	70:20,25 73:17	bet 23:10
Assistant 21:5	avoided 9:18	126:17 136:21	74:20 75:13	better 11:17
assisted 100:20	54:13	bear 52:25	76:8 77:8,13	22:5 64:20
associated 1:13	avoiding 48:17	beautiful 121:6	77:16,18 78:11	94:14 98:15

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

bettering 47:17	Bondy 16:23,24	brothers 41:20	16:6,9,21,23	114:1,3 115:9
big 11:18 21:16	17:2,5,5,7,9	brought 72:10	17:3,6,8 20:9	115:11,16,19
22:7,23 34:2	135:6	83:14 92:11	20:14,19 24:1	115:21 119:10
55:15,24 64:14	bone 18:24	Brown 50:11,12	24:6,9,12	119:15,18,24
94:2 98:5,13	Boone 7:19 26:5	50:15,18,18,22	27:15,16,21,25	120:1 121:14
102:17 126:21	26:5 93:4	50:24 135:18	28:5 31:19,21	121:19,22,24
127:14 128:3,7	101:6	137:5	32:1,4,7 33:6	123:20 124:1,6
128:22 131:24	boring 83:11	brunt 52:25	33:11,14 35:16	124:10 125:21
132:3,4,14,17	born 114:5	buck 116:3	35:18,24 36:3	126:3,7,9
Bill 27:3	bottlenecks	budgets 32:14	36:7 37:21,23	129:1,7,10,13
bills 18:11 30:14	132:15	build 24:17	38:3,6,9 40:11	129:15 131:3,9
30:18,19,21	bottoms 100:12	25:16 27:12	40:17,21,24	131:12,16
32:23 38:22	bought 20:23,24	28:16 54:2	43:21 44:1,6	134:6 137:9
40:2 47:19	21:8 133:6,8	59:11 62:25	45:19,24 46:2	business 29:20
48:12 71:4	Boulevard 1:24	63:3 66:5	46:5 49:7,12	48:23 64:10,14
103:9 122:25	box 2:4,9 51:3	69:12 70:11,13	50:11,16,20,23	69:7 78:12
bio 89:21	boy 61:14 68:15	78:12 85:13	54:18,20,25	84:2 104:7
Birch 115:11,11	boys 61:15	116:20,24	55:4,7 58:15	106:15,16
115:12,15,18	64:10 128:7	117:10 129:22	58:17,22 59:1	111:1 126:21
115:18,20,22	boys' 64:6	build-up 89:5	59:4 60:13,15	127:14 128:7
136:18	Bragg 37:23,24	building 9:3	60:20,23,25	128:22 131:22
birds 13:20	38:2,5,5,7,10	12:3 22:20,21	64:25 65:5,8	131:24 132:3
bit 9:23 83:24	38:12 135:13	53:5 61:10	65:11 68:7,12	133:24
111:18 112:5	branchway	63:4 66:15,22	68:16,18 71:9	businesses 25:19
black 96:17	37:11	69:1 108:10	71:13,18,23	28:22 29:14,21
Bliven 68:7,8,11	break 71:11,12	built 21:16,23	72:2,4,20 73:1	45:17 69:8,9
68:14,14,17,19	117:25	31:18 41:25	73:5,7,10	70:8,22 71:3
135:23	breaking 133:22	52:17 53:8	74:23 75:3,7	109:8
block 25:22	breast 59:15,20	bully 64:15	75:10,18,20,25	bustle 21:14
blocks 69:1	breathing 47:3	burden 12:5	76:4,6,16,21	busy 86:7
blood 21:19	brief 28:13	24:25 73:13	76:25 77:3	buy 26:10,11
bloodstream	Brikerd 71:16	burdensome	81:2,5,10,14	70:14
47:2	Brinder 71:16	18:12	81:16 84:4,6	buying 29:7
blow 23:11	bring 10:4 25:3	burn 98:14	84:11,14,16	
116:8	26:9 68:21	burned 102:21	87:9,14,17,19	C
blows 116:12,15	69:22 70:11,19	burning 102:25	90:20,22 91:2	c 2:1 3:1 72:1
116:16,17	70:20 80:10,13	bury 51:16	91:6 92:20	94:25
Blunt's 101:16	82:6,10 91:19	bus 98:3	93:1,5,8 94:16	C-a-n-d-a-c-e
board 26:15	92:1 93:10,14	BUSHMAN 5:2	94:22 95:1	11:4
87:24 94:3	94:4 116:24	33:17 49:15,17	99:2,9,14,17	C-e-n-o-v-i-c-h
97:5	bringing 26:5	Bushmann 1:17	99:20,24 100:5	73:4
Bob 124:2,5,8	75:15 102:14	3:2,16 4:9,13	100:9,13	C-l-u-r-e 72:1
136:21	brings 95:21	4:15,19,24	103:11,17,21	C-r-u-t-c-h-f-i...
Bobba 59:21,24	broke 120:23,25	7:13,16,20	103:24 108:20	126:6
boil 15:9	132:8,8	10:19,21 11:2	108:25 109:3,5	cade 126:24
boils 23:17	broken 18:22	11:6,9 15:15	109:24 110:1,6	call 5:21,23
bond 53:22	23:18	15:19,22 16:3	113:17,22	101:10

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

<p>called 6:9 56:6 63:13 124:23 calling 6:16 campaign 67:9 campaigned 66:23 67:10 campaigning 67:14,17 campgrounds 86:19 Canada 13:18 cancer 42:4,13 59:13,14,15,20 Candace 10:21 10:23 11:1,4 135:4 candidates 66:19,21 capability 93:16 capacity 29:10 57:7 Capital 72:1 capitalize 78:8 caption 138:11 captioned 3:7 carbon 17:25 46:25 48:21 90:15,16 care 23:7 48:18 52:10 63:22 116:24 128:18 career 72:8 100:17 careers 100:16 Carolyn 90:22 90:23 91:1,4 136:9 carry 53:18 77:22,24 78:1 78:3 104:16,24 cars 70:16 102:20 cascading 47:10 case 3:7 28:10 31:5 72:1 83:9 cattle 33:19 34:2 63:14,16</p>	<p>117:12,13 cause 11:22 42:13 48:17 caused 58:11 63:9 causes 98:13 CCR 1:23 138:21 Cenovich 72:22 72:25 73:3,3,6 73:8,12 135:25 cent 80:3 center 62:4 95:9 96:8,9 central 49:22 88:2 Centralia 24:10 24:14 25:12,24 26:7,15,17,22 28:2,4,7,18,22 29:2,15,19,20 30:6,12 69:3,8 69:17,25 70:21 70:23 71:2 86:16 106:25 127:8 Centralia's 30:3 centralize 18:16 cents 9:19,23 29:6,8,11,13 39:12 79:17,18 106:25 107:1,4 107:9,25 108:2 117:13 127:13 certain 132:1 certainly 121:3 certainties 89:7 certificate 1:11 3:9 24:17 27:11 28:16 31:17 60:11 77:14 78:16 136:25 138:1 Certified 138:7 138:8 certify 138:10 cetera 16:18</p>	<p>34:10 Chairman 65:12 challenge 111:18 chance 5:17 6:4 11:12 32:16 change 88:15,18 88:23 89:20 90:14 117:25 127:25,25 changed 22:25 55:18 changes 89:6 channel 54:2 charge 51:11 Chariton 120:3 Charlene 93:4 charter 81:23 cheap 27:7 43:10 53:3,10 53:12 132:1 cheaper 73:19 111:22 122:10 122:25 127:9 127:11 cheapest 78:4 cheapness 53:4 check 5:6 Chicago 106:17 child 22:4 41:17 children 42:5 46:9 47:5 52:17 104:23 119:3 children's 61:19 choose 12:13 31:10 chosen 51:14 69:11 Christmas 44:9 Christopher 30:25 church 32:18 churches 28:22 100:19 cited 79:7 cities 29:21</p>	<p>39:17 106:25 citing 78:22 80:10 citizen 8:5 91:18 citizens 25:5,12 25:19 28:21 30:12 31:13 88:12 91:10 125:16 city 1:24 2:5,10 2:23 24:14 25:7 26:17,21 28:3,7,18 29:17 31:2,8 38:12,22 41:23 56:3 57:23 70:21 73:6 74:7 84:25 85:10,19 86:18 91:11 95:22 122:20 civil 69:8 82:1 82:17 clandestine 125:14 Clarence 16:7 class 18:8 Clay 76:5 clean 1:10 2:21 3:8 4:11 9:1 10:2 12:13,17 23:10 24:16 25:2,16,25 26:22 27:8,11 28:15 37:10 41:9,13 45:8 45:16 46:11 47:6,7,11,14 47:15 48:8,15 48:20,21,24,25 49:1,2,5,19,25 55:10 56:24 59:11,17 60:11 63:17 69:11 70:20,25 73:19 77:8,20,25 82:21,25 85:12</p>	<p>89:25 90:7 91:19,20 92:2 92:12,12,18 96:22 102:15 103:3 104:3 107:4 108:4 109:7 112:5 113:14 119:22 122:10 126:25 132:11 134:4 clean-ups 126:23 cleaning 126:23 126:24 clear 8:12 116:14 clearances 98:19 clients 4:23 climate 88:15,18 88:23 89:20 90:14 101:10 close 12:1 13:19 28:9 42:19 62:1 99:22 110:11 128:9 closely 8:25 closeness 59:23 closing 120:18 clothes 30:22 Club 96:5 co-existence 14:2 co-locating 14:14,25 co-op 57:16 co-owner 74:6 CO2 88:24 102:22 coal 17:22 41:17 41:18,22 78:2 79:25 94:6 95:6,7 96:19 101:11 102:18 102:19,19,21 102:24 111:24 121:3,9 132:18</p>
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MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

<p>coal-fired 46:15 48:5 95:15,25 96:3,21 coast 54:1,3,3,5 110:24 coastal 89:16 Coexisting 14:10 cold 41:13 collateral 58:8 colleagues 46:8 colon 59:14 Columbia 49:16 49:20 57:23 68:17 72:7 87:18 91:5,10 91:14,17,18 100:18 109:4 Columbia's 91:8 combination 89:18 combine 42:10 combined 10:12 combines 37:2 37:17 combining 34:14 come 5:23 7:7 41:9 44:25 45:9 53:2 85:15 86:4 87:23 89:3 95:12 96:16 97:11 98:7 99:9 101:3 104:4,11 112:17 124:1 125:23 126:10 126:14 128:13 133:21 comes 18:17 51:4 56:4 85:25 96:18 102:25 122:14 comfort 62:1 comic 7:23 coming 55:9</p>	<p>58:14 86:23 89:15 95:3 96:13 97:1,2 104:1 114:24 128:24 131:19 133:7 134:8 comment 88:6 comments 4:6 6:1,14,15 8:4,5 11:12 65:23 92:19 commercial 114:20 Commission 1:1 2:2,3,8 3:5 4:1 4:13 5:11,12 6:1,2,16,17 7:1 8:11 10:17 12:10 16:15 23:2 26:19 38:11,23 40:4 60:10 79:3 90:12 Commissioner 1:20,21 3:18 3:19,21,23,25 10:20 16:22 20:8 21:2,4,7 27:14 31:20 33:5 35:17 37:22 49:6 58:16 60:14 64:24 66:17 67:2,4,20 71:8 72:19 74:22 75:19 76:15 81:4 84:5 87:8 90:21 103:10 106:1 109:25 113:5 115:10 119:20 123:19 134:5 Commissioners 1:19 6:21 24:13 28:6 50:24 59:5 65:13 66:3,8</p>	<p>66:15 72:15 74:19 123:4 commits 85:7 common 43:13 commonly 26:19 communities 38:20 39:6 40:3 69:21 75:15 76:10,14 118:6 128:16 community 12:23 16:10 30:4 32:17,17 32:18,23 38:15 39:8,22 52:2 52:19 53:1 64:17 69:20,25 70:10 72:11 75:15 104:2 107:18 111:6 companies 64:8 74:16,18 82:2 92:14,16,17 96:25 97:1 102:6 106:16 128:3 company 7:1 11:25 12:14 69:13,20 74:7 74:11,14 78:7 82:12 84:20,24 85:11 92:12,13 106:21,22 107:4,23 108:14 128:5 compensate 31:11 compensated 27:5,5 109:21 compensation 51:15 114:21 competition 86:25 competitive 39:14 57:1 complete 85:8</p>	<p>86:10 132:20 completely 36:10 compliance 115:7 complicated 8:16 comprehensive 57:13 compromise 14:21 51:16 compromised 47:3 compromises 130:2 computer 37:7 98:14 concentration 88:24 concern 8:17 11:22 12:21 34:2 41:11 42:6 88:16 concerned 4:25 11:23 13:10 52:1,4 53:4 74:4 88:4 concerns 88:5 90:18 97:6 104:2 105:9 111:15 112:3 concluded 134:10 concrete 86:14 condemn 21:21 68:5 condition 62:24 conditions 47:8 conductive 14:18,18 confiscation 27:6 Connecticut 56:4 Conoco 132:21 cons 127:23 conservancy</p>	<p>92:3 consider 10:17 15:5 90:5 98:22 considerably 130:14 consideration 8:12 40:10 54:16 considered 34:19 88:11 considering 11:16 35:5 54:11 62:20 91:23 consisting 83:20 consists 38:16 constant 64:7 Constitution 26:25 129:25 Construct 1:12 3:10 constructed 77:22,24 78:1 79:4 82:24 115:4,5 construction 9:7 26:8,9 30:3 45:8 53:20 59:16 69:9 80:14 82:9 83:21 85:9,11 88:9 114:19,19 114:20 115:6 consulting 81:19 contacted 67:12 contaminants 46:22 context 88:8,11 89:23 Continent 13:15 125:1 contingencies 12:12 continually 95:18 96:4 continue 39:13</p>
---	--	--	---	--

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

45:14 64:10 72:8 86:9 111:7 112:7 117:13 CONTINUED 136:1 continues 67:3 110:19 contract 29:9 82:22 85:9 contracting 84:24 contractors 51:9 contributing 47:8 contributions 47:16 control 1:12 3:10 112:3 118:17 Convenience 1:11 3:9 24:17 27:12 28:16 60:12 77:14 78:16 convenient 79:11 converter 1:13 3:12 82:23 83:1 118:2 convinced 110:13,16 cooling 48:24 cooperative 101:6,7,8,9,17 cord 55:20 corner 36:16,17 corporate 85:20 104:7 105:4 106:14 107:2 107:11 108:18 corporation 43:20 84:23 117:18 correctly 8:9 41:24 corridor 51:1	117:7 corridors 15:3 corrupt 18:22 cost 15:8 16:13 18:17 28:20 30:8 39:9 44:12,13,18 48:2 52:23 53:9,10,14 56:8,17,18 68:23 71:1 93:21 101:23 118:1 costly 17:21 costs 9:16,18 16:17 18:21 20:5 28:19 29:5 39:24 48:11 49:24 53:23 90:6 93:16 100:23 100:23 112:16 114:22 120:9 122:8 133:13 133:18,19 Council 82:1 91:11 100:18 Counsel 2:7 4:9 4:16,18 count 20:5 counties 5:16 9:6 51:23 80:19 123:16 127:18 country 97:2 104:21 110:25 116:11,14 125:1 129:25 132:15 county 7:19 9:8 9:11 17:7 20:17 26:5 32:9 33:2,20 41:1,14 42:16 44:4,5 45:12 52:24 55:6,9 56:5,23 57:5	59:7,9 65:9,16 65:24 66:2,6 66:12,15,25 67:20,23 68:3 76:5 80:8,12 80:15,18 83:2 93:4 100:10 101:13 105:10 106:25 111:25 113:5,7 115:20 119:25 120:3 122:1,4,6 123:2,15 124:12 125:14 125:15 127:18 131:14 132:7 132:10 133:5 138:5 County's 26:6 couple 13:10 42:3 91:21 115:22 122:7 coupling 14:17 course 88:15 102:22 court 2:18 15:20 54:19 138:8 courteous 7:4 courtesy 43:7 cover 133:13 craft 86:3 Craig 31:21,22 31:25 32:3 135:10 cranked 18:10 crashing 13:21 create 47:20 56:7 84:20 86:8 97:24 105:5 created 9:2 21:16 74:1 creating 20:3 104:25 creation 8:24 crews 85:17 crisis 88:11	criteria 14:10 55:21 79:6 crop 57:11 crops 29:3 33:20 34:8 36:21 37:3 62:8 cross 12:23 36:18 65:19 90:3 97:14,21 98:6 120:3 crossed 97:13 crossing 8:23 14:15 crucial 47:10 Crutchfield 67:5 125:24 126:2,5,5,8,10 136:22 CSR 1:23 138:21 current 1:13 3:11 9:17,20 15:1,2 18:5,15 29:9 42:13 48:22 59:12 97:18 107:13 currently 9:9,19 10:2,10 17:23 29:5 36:10 62:13,20 65:15 65:16 93:17 97:8 customer 9:21 70:3 customers 30:16 56:19 cut 62:7	Dakota 97:10,16 116:10,10 damage 58:8 112:14 damages 47:21 48:3 Dan 119:10,11 119:14,17 136:19 dangerous 37:2 47:5 date 66:9 daughters 104:12 David 2:13 5:1 44:4 day 39:21 63:12 106:15,18 days 47:3 101:1 DC 15:1 24:18 25:6 27:12 28:17 41:24 42:13 59:22 97:13,14,18,24 98:5,6 117:22 deaf 31:6 deal 12:5,20 64:11 89:8 100:22 117:9 118:1,3 dealing 122:5 dealt 102:6 Debbie 40:11,13 40:16,19 135:14 debt 120:22 decade 32:25 decades 31:4 85:15 89:15 December 1:7 3:3 67:21 91:14 134:11 decided 70:23 123:4,7 deciding 24:25 decimating 121:5
--	--	--	--	---

D

D 3:1 40:22 44:3
135:1 136:1
D-o-k-k-e-n
109:2
D-o-w-l-i-n 11:5
dad 22:13,14,15
41:18 42:11
daddy 22:15

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

decision 79:10 88:8,9 89:25 118:8 128:8	93:11 depreciation 113:1	35:11 52:13 digging 102:16 126:25	128:2 Dokken 108:20 108:21,24 109:2,2,4,6 136:15	driven 19:1 drop 13:4,5 36:25 57:8,24 58:2 117:23
decision-make... 88:12	derived 78:2 DESCRIPTI... 137:2	direct 1:13 3:11 15:2 59:12	dollar 101:3 106:24 112:22 112:23 118:2 122:23 132:8	droughts 89:11 due 13:12 17:15 82:4
decisions 89:23 118:17	design 82:23 92:4 111:17	direction 76:13 directly 8:22 28:21 37:16 47:7 48:14 104:6,12 110:10	dollars 22:7 25:20 64:21 71:4 83:22 95:13 110:13 120:22	duly 7:10 10:24 15:25 16:25 20:11 24:3 27:18 31:23 33:8 35:21 37:25 40:14 43:23 45:21 49:9 50:13 54:22 58:19 60:17 65:2 68:9 71:20 72:23 74:25 75:22 76:18 81:7 84:8 87:11 90:24 92:23 94:19 99:11 100:2 103:14 108:22 110:3 113:19 115:13 119:12 121:16 124:3 125:25 129:4 131:6
decline 51:22	designed 53:8 60:4	Director 69:7 97:15	domain 43:19 51:8 55:16,25 68:4 77:15 78:17 129:18 130:2,4	
decrease 48:23	designing 53:5	Directors 87:24	domestic 12:18	
decreasing 44:12	designs 83:5	dirty 102:24	donate 6:20	
dedication 24:23	destinations 55:23	disadvantage 94:12	donated 52:18	
Dee 108:20,21 108:24 109:2 136:15	destroy 19:7 23:23	disaster 56:5	door-to-door 67:11,14	
deer 22:6	destroying 18:18	discount 107:1	doors 47:3	
Deere 37:6	destruction 62:21	discriminate 53:16	dormant 105:21	
defeat 18:20	determination 8:13	discussed 34:20	double 101:7	
deficit 122:23	determine 51:10 51:19	discussions 69:15	Dowlin 10:22,23 11:1,4,5,7,10 15:18,21 135:4	
definitely 131:20 133:20 134:3	detrimental 89:6	disease 89:22	downloads 46:11	<hr/> E <hr/>
deflate 19:21	devaluating 121:5	dispatch 57:7	downwind 46:14 48:5	E 2:1,1 3:1,1 135:1 136:1 137:1
degree 111:2 124:20	devaluing 120:13	disrupting 56:1	Dr 59:20,24	EA-2015-0357 3:15
delayed 3:19	devaluing 120:13	disruptive 55:13	dramatic 89:2	EA-2016-0358 1:12
deliver 71:1	developed 96:4	distance 119:4	dream 20:24 21:9,11 23:22	earlier 61:2 63:4 86:15 104:15 123:24 130:10
delivered 26:21	development 16:17 18:6 25:4,8 29:16 45:7 56:10 74:3 85:6 93:12	distributed 9:13	dreamed 61:10	early 124:22
delivers 45:16 109:7	Diel 43:21,22,25 44:3,3,7 135:15	distribution 69:5 105:16,19 105:24	dreams 23:18 61:2	earned 19:13
demand 86:2 120:11	difference 34:23	district 67:4,20 86:4 94:17	dress 63:14	easement 58:1 64:1,4 109:22
demands 44:24	different 94:13 100:15 104:4 115:23 117:17 119:4	districts 9:14	dressed 124:18	easements 68:5
demonstrates 85:11	difficult 34:10	diversify 109:16	drifting 58:10	
denied 78:21 123:3		diversity 89:21	drilling 83:11	
deniers 101:10		doctor 42:4	drive 32:5 34:9 108:14 123:16	
deny 43:18 51:7 60:10 77:16 95:7 104:10 110:20 113:14 113:14		document 15:4 58:3 63:10 137:3		
denying 54:16		doing 22:3 34:15 48:23 74:10 78:14 95:14 101:18 106:19 125:12 126:22		
Department 45:6 59:9				

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

<p>129:18,20,22 easier 132:13 easily 57:8 east 24:10 46:3 54:1,3,5 57:6 78:9 80:6 93:10 107:24 108:1,7 110:24 117:5 121:4 eastern 57:9 82:25 easy 52:10 eat 70:15 economic 16:16 25:4,8 29:16 31:16 45:6 47:24 56:5,10 74:2 86:11 87:5 93:11 101:15 economically 78:24 101:19 120:8 economics 18:6 44:11 122:19 122:21 128:15 Economist 54:4 economy 30:4 75:16 102:3 EE 103:22 121:23 effect 37:12 47:10 104:5 effective 88:13 effects 13:25 14:19 15:3 29:4 efficient 17:25 18:13 efficiently 103:5 effort 16:13 28:11 efforts 18:19,22 112:2,6 eight 39:11 108:2 either 8:19</p>	<p>123:24 elderly 46:16 elected 32:9 67:1 election 66:24 67:2,19 electric 14:10 26:18 28:20 29:5 37:9,13 37:15 38:23 39:24 44:22 47:19 51:5 57:13,16 72:13 79:3 82:22 84:18,22 85:1 85:4,13,24 86:1,4 101:6,7 101:7,9,16 106:21 111:24 112:2 120:7 127:20 130:16 130:18 electrical 14:2 14:16 25:7 36:23 57:5 58:9,13 69:5 72:6 84:23 122:11 electricity 17:22 28:25 29:1,4 30:10 34:15 42:18 44:15 46:11 47:13 53:14,19 79:16 79:21,23 80:3 120:10,21 125:10 electromagnetic 14:18 Electronic 98:19 electrostatic 14:17 Elementary 42:16 Elm 99:19 else's 117:4 emergency</p>	<p>47:22 100:19 emergent 55:19 eminent 43:19 51:8 55:16,25 68:4 77:15 78:17 129:18 130:1,4 emotional 48:3 employ 50:7,9 70:12 83:15 107:16 employed 82:19 85:18,21 employee 24:21 59:8 84:3 employee-own... 81:18 employees 69:17 69:21 70:19 82:20 83:18 85:19 86:7 95:10 120:14 employers 16:14 45:3 employment 44:21 74:13,18 85:25 employs 95:9 empty 105:22 enabled 46:10 encourage 71:7 79:8 encourages 28:18 encouraging 47:11 endeavor 19:25 energy 8:1 9:1 11:18 12:13,17 16:11,14,17 17:19,24 18:6 18:11 23:10 25:4,9 26:13 26:21 27:8,8 39:6,13,16,18 39:19 41:9,13 44:21,22,24</p>	<p>45:4,9,16 47:7 47:11,15,24 48:8,11 49:20 49:25 50:2 53:17 54:1 56:18,24 57:2 57:5,21 69:12 70:24 71:1 73:20 76:14 77:9,20,23,25 78:3,4 79:14 80:1,2 82:5,21 89:24 91:8,12 91:12,15,16,20 95:9 96:8,9,23 97:11,11 102:8 103:3 108:5 109:8,10,16 111:22 114:22 114:25 122:10 122:11 125:3 132:11 Energy's 82:25 Engineer 77:5 engineering 36:24 49:20,21 70:3 72:6 74:6 81:19 82:2,11 82:12 85:8 111:17 114:11 115:7 engineers 82:1 82:17 83:8,20 enhancing 47:17 ensure 61:15 63:18 enter 8:4 26:17 130:24 entered 25:13 130:22 enticements 19:3 20:2 entire 40:5 41:1 58:3 60:4 124:25 entities 73:23 74:15</p>	<p>entity 108:15 120:21 entrance 6:18 entries 4:10 entry 5:3 environment 91:24 92:9 125:4 environment,... 89:7 environmental 13:23 14:1 58:9 82:18 83:20 91:23 102:8 118:20 126:23 environmenta... 13:13 environmenta... 47:13 77:19,25 92:5 envy 11:14 EPA 95:23 equipment 29:1 37:5,7 62:10 62:25 63:2 Eric 72:22,25 73:3 135:25 Erin 15:23,24 16:2,5 135:5 erosion 63:9 Err 72:20 escrow 53:21 especially 12:21 43:10 46:15 53:1 101:9 102:7 125:13 129:17 essential 82:15 established 6:2 estate 86:20 estimate 51:21 estimated 26:1 36:25 39:6 86:5 estimates 13:19 et 16:18 34:10</p>
--	---	--	---	--

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

Europe 17:13,17 120:25	expenses 78:18	120:13	19:15 33:23	52:15 59:19
evening 3:2 11:11 38:10,15 67:14 71:6 73:9,13 106:4	expensive 52:13 108:3	<hr/> F <hr/>	40:25 41:2,14 44:5 61:6,7,8,9 61:12,16,20 63:13 64:16 65:15,19,22 104:16,22,24 120:2 121:8 133:6,16	64:1 77:7 98:9 98:10 108:11 126:14,16
evening's 5:19	experience 36:23 58:4 125:5	F 99:4	farm's 65:21	felt 41:6
everybody 3:24 30:9 73:8,12 94:2 116:2,4 117:4 118:8,14 118:17 130:23 133:19	experienced 56:5	F-e-t-a-h-o-v-i-c 76:3	farmed 33:18	fence 37:10 126:16
everyone's 116:1	experiences 33:22	F-r-a-n-k 99:7	farmer 34:12 44:9 55:8 77:6	fences 21:23 37:14,15
evidence 5:14 14:8	expires 6:15	F-u-l-l-e-r 32:3	farmers 18:9 19:4,14 29:3 104:25 107:15	fencing 37:13
evidentiary 5:13 6:24	expose 42:12	facilities 44:25 56:25 70:8	farmhouse 61:23	Fenton 2:14
example 9:8 53:14	express 1:10 2:21 3:8 4:11 8:14 10:7 16:12,20 17:10 24:16 27:11 28:15 35:1 39:3,15 40:7 43:16 45:1 55:10 57:3 59:11,16 60:11 67:10 68:20 69:12,19 70:6 70:20,25 73:17 75:13 76:8 77:8,13,14,18 78:11,15 79:1 80:21 82:3,4 82:10 83:2 84:20 85:5,16 88:10 90:1 91:19	fact 13:14 19:13 35:3 82:20 91:10 101:22 102:16 110:18 133:6	farming 33:23 35:10 42:9,22 52:6 64:7	Fetahovic 75:20 75:21,24 76:2 76:2,5,7 136:4
examples 55:23	Express' 5:14	factoring 88:19	farms 17:9 21:10 47:14 52:5 54:6 62:5 105:13,19 133:10,16	field 2:18 36:20 36:22 37:4 57:18 83:19 97:25 114:12 131:1
excel 74:10 94:25	Express's 77:16 78:22 79:9	factories 44:8	fatal 102:11	fields 35:13 43:1 58:11 97:13,22
excessive 89:12	Expressway 74:20	facts 95:5 122:14,15	favor 80:9 84:19 91:18 109:6 122:3 123:5,7 130:17,21 131:1	Fifth 27:3
excited 105:6 106:9	expressed 41:11	fail 128:13	favorably 72:16	fight 63:10 64:7
excitement 61:18	extensively 92:3	failed 56:8 78:22	feasibility 112:23	file 1:12 3:14 54:7,11
excites 70:9	externalized 48:11	Fairfield 93:10	feasible 61:24 78:24	filed 31:1
excuses 102:1	extra 133:17	fairly 109:21	feed 34:12	final 7:3
exercise 55:17	extreme 89:11	Faith 100:18	feel 20:1 27:9 34:12,14 42:17 61:3 110:18 112:1 113:2	finally 10:1,15 12:8 63:11 132:21,22
exhibit 15:17,23 54:18 137:2,3 137:4	extremely 122:9	fall 42:17	feelings 61:18 95:4	financial 19:3 20:2 47:21 56:9
exhibits 54:12 137:9	eyes 22:7	falling 105:22	feels 105:12	find 107:3
exist 122:18	eyesore 62:21	falls 38:18	feet 37:1,10	finished 6:14 111:1
existential 88:20		familiar 83:9		fire 9:13
existing 17:21 43:3		families 47:21 48:4 52:2 69:25 106:19		fired 46:22
expect 55:13		family 17:9 41:2 60:2 62:15,18 84:3 104:6,11 104:17 111:5 112:11 120:2 120:14 121:11		fires 89:12
expected 39:5 71:2 120:23		fannies 21:17		firm 49:20 81:19 129:23 130:20
expedited 130:13		far 13:24 26:7 42:15 46:20 83:24 88:11 90:8 122:4 128:14		firms 83:11,16
expense 78:9,19		farm 11:20		first 6:6 7:6,10 10:24 12:11 15:25 16:25 20:11 21:23,25

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

24:3 27:18 31:23 33:8 35:21 37:25 40:14 43:23 45:12,21 49:9 50:13 54:22 58:19 60:17 61:6,13 65:2 66:11 67:15 68:9 71:20 72:23 73:16 74:25 75:22 76:18 81:7 84:8 87:11 90:24 92:23 94:19 99:4,11 100:2 102:5 103:14 108:22 110:3,21 113:19 115:13 119:12 121:16 122:7 124:3 125:7,25 129:4 131:6 Fish 13:18 fit 55:21 five 6:10 13:3 17:20 52:2 104:11,23 119:4 fixed 33:1 100:24 133:12 flashed 22:14 flaw 102:11 flexibility 110:14 flooding 89:12 floor 69:18 fluctuate 112:24 fly 105:10,11 flyways 13:15 folks 70:14 71:13 118:9 127:5 follow 64:8 following 65:23 follows 7:11	10:25 16:1 17:1 20:12 24:4 27:19 31:24 33:9 35:22 38:1 40:15 43:24 45:22 49:10 50:14 54:23 58:20 60:18 65:3 68:10 71:21 72:24 75:1,23 76:19 81:8 84:9 87:12 90:25 92:24 94:20 99:12 100:3 103:15 108:23 110:4 113:20 115:14 119:13 121:17 124:4 126:1 129:5 131:7 food 26:10 30:22 35:13 fooled 56:11 foot 37:11 65:19 footage 35:5 111:17 footprint 14:7 17:25 for-profit 78:7 102:5 106:16 106:21 force 86:3 forced 62:2 89:8 forefathers 111:5 foreign 12:18 108:15 foremost 110:22 forget 26:8 86:17 form 78:4 130:1 forth 138:11,14 forward 7:7 112:2 113:15 124:1 125:23	127:24 fossil 44:13 46:22 47:24 53:19 102:3 foul 13:15 found 45:7 59:13 66:24 111:3 133:6 foundation 18:18 foundations 83:5 founded 81:24 84:22 founding 19:25 four 4:22 12:2 29:10 38:7 42:8 63:24 116:23 128:15 Frank 99:7,10 99:13,16 136:12 Franklin 100:11 free 44:11 58:13 frequencies 37:19 friendly 47:13 friends 12:21 46:8 126:12 front 20:21 22:6 65:19 98:2 fruition 112:18 fuel 9:18 44:13 44:18 46:22 86:21 102:3 fuels 53:19 full-time 101:2 Fuller 31:21,22 31:25 32:3,3,5 32:8 135:10 fully 53:21 138:13 Fulton 50:22 functioning 120:18 fund 53:21,21 100:19,20	fundraising 18:19,21 funds 15:10 further 15:13 future 4:2 14:13 14:24 19:16 20:4 23:5 42:14 49:25 51:2 58:5,6 61:19 64:6,7 72:17 88:17 109:15 112:25 120:16 <hr/> G <hr/> G 3:1 gain 19:3 gainful 74:13 gainfully 82:19 Gamble 44:23 game 116:6 118:9 Gary 20:9,10,13 20:16 135:7 gas 26:10 32:19 45:5 70:16 78:3 83:23 92:16 gate 21:25 63:12 general 8:21 44:22 47:25 66:12 82:22 106:21 generally 102:10 generate 106:11 120:9 generated 80:11 93:17 94:6 generates 56:25 generating 127:16,17 generation 42:14 56:23 64:10 78:12 79:20 90:17 generators	17:14 Genevieve 72:3 gentleman 61:1 87:2,21 125:22 gentlemen 11:10 23:25 68:6 geology 83:9 geotechnical 82:16 Geotechnics 83:12 Germany 96:20 getting 63:14 76:13 98:25 101:4 107:1 gimmick 57:12 give 5:16 6:3,12 6:18 11:22 12:20 13:2 15:19 72:16 73:14,18 74:19 108:4 114:9 123:10 130:25 given 66:16 86:1 102:2 106:3 110:17 114:17 giving 11:12 59:9 64:14,15 66:4 72:11 97:16 118:1 glance 12:11 global 69:4 globaling 17:11 globally 48:20 49:4 go 3:2 4:7 7:20 9:12 11:9 15:13 16:9 17:8 20:19 22:16 24:12 28:5 32:7 33:17 36:7,9 38:9 39:22 40:24 44:6 46:5 49:17 50:23 55:7 59:4 60:25
---	---	---	---	--

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

61:5 65:11 68:18 70:15 72:4 73:7 75:10 76:6 77:3 81:16 84:16 87:19 91:6 93:8 95:1 97:17,18 98:15 99:20 100:13 102:20 103:24 109:5 114:3 115:21 116:11 117:15 119:7,8 120:1 121:24 126:9 129:15 131:16 133:9 goal 20:24 21:9 21:11 goals 10:9,12 goes 36:12 62:4 64:9 112:10 116:21 118:11 132:7 going 5:21 13:9 20:21 21:20 23:4,5,8,9,14 23:16 36:17,18 54:2 55:25 56:19 57:6 63:18,19 64:1 64:19 70:10,14 71:10 75:14 80:5 93:18 96:20 97:12,17 97:18 98:12 101:25,25 105:16 106:10 107:4,6,8,20 107:23 108:4,6 108:7,8 111:18 114:21 115:1 116:19,21 117:15,20,24 118:1 119:1,2 119:4,8 120:25 123:17 124:16 125:17 126:13	126:14,15 127:8,10,11,18 128:12,18 132:2 133:9,20 good 3:2 23:7 25:1,3 26:2,5 26:14 27:8 31:9 38:10 50:9 70:2,4,4 71:18,23 74:12 87:4,5 92:9 106:22 112:19 112:20 117:1 124:25 130:12 goods 26:11 Google 98:4 government 18:16 120:12 GPS 37:4 42:21 42:22 graduate 72:9 Graham 71:15 71:15,15 grain 1:10 2:21 3:8 4:10 5:14 8:14 10:6 12:7 12:13 16:12,20 17:10 18:19 19:6,11 20:5 23:24 24:16 27:10 28:15 35:1 37:2 39:3 39:15 40:6 43:15 45:1,3 48:15 50:25 51:2,6,11,11 51:13,16,19 52:4,8,9,10,20 53:3,4,7,11,13 53:15,16,18,21 54:13,16 55:10 56:13 57:3,12 57:20 59:11,16 60:10 65:18,20 65:24 66:4,4,9 66:13,13,16,18 66:22,25 67:6	67:10,12,17,23 67:24,25 68:1 68:2,3,20 69:12,19 70:5 70:20,25 73:17 74:20 75:13 76:8 77:8,13 77:16,18 78:11 78:15,21 79:1 79:8 80:21,22 80:24 82:3,10 83:2 84:19 85:5,16 88:9 90:1 91:19 97:7,9 109:6 125:7 129:17 129:21 130:21 131:20 grandchildren 21:12,13 42:8 60:3 granddaughter 21:24 granddaughters 21:24 grandfather 30:25 grandkids 88:18 grandma 22:11 grandpa 22:12 grandparents 41:2 111:5 grant 31:17 granted 13:18 grass 87:25 gravel 63:14,15 86:13 graze 34:2 great 8:6 12:5 12:20 14:4 21:12 50:8 104:21 greater 31:9 85:24 greatest 88:16 Greek 51:3 green 31:17	39:16 96:24 98:1 125:3 grew 41:14 109:9 127:3 grid 10:14 17:12 17:14 48:9 57:9 72:13 76:12 94:9 97:3 117:23 122:11 grids 57:14 Grippy 24:19 groceries 32:19 70:15 grocery 86:20 ground 6:2 37:1 37:13 97:20 group 31:1 125:19 grow 75:14 133:23 growing 26:14 30:6 44:24 120:23 growth 68:24 69:1 guarantee 43:9 108:2 112:24 guaranteed 52:21 80:21 127:9 guarantees 12:15 111:21 111:22 Guard 24:21 guess 99:6 125:8 128:9 133:6 guinea 42:2 guys 86:18 104:1 126:11 127:12 128:8	46:1 H-e-n-k-e 60:22 H-o-b-b-s 65:7 H-o-d-g-e-s 40:20 H-u-t-c-h-i-n-... 129:12 habitat 19:8 21:16 hair 124:18 half 39:10 52:23 62:8,8 108:10 133:3 Hall 28:3 halt 89:5 hand 7:8 109:18 handful 88:20 handicapped 60:5 hands 134:7 handwriting 99:8 Hannibal 29:21 41:5,9 43:6 83:13 116:22 Hanson 81:17 81:23 Hanson's 84:2 happen 19:23 56:11 63:17 happened 64:5 127:21 happening 64:2 64:11 happiness 20:3 happy 90:4 hard 11:16 104:19 105:5 107:3 118:18 hard-working 106:18 Harden 2:22 4:12,12 harder 101:3,3 hardest 30:18 hardware 69:14 86:15
---	---	---	---	---

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

Harline 27:16 27:17,20,23,23 28:1,6,7 30:25 135:9	122:8 123:5 132:1 134:9	hike 44:19 52:20 108:7	Horner 84:18	hustle 21:14
harm 53:1	hearings 4:3 5:15 24:24 28:8	hikes 44:16	horrible 62:24	Hutchinson 129:3,6,9,11 129:11,14,16 136:23
Harmon 45:19 45:20,23 46:1 46:1,3,6,6 135:16	heart 105:12 107:2	hill 63:15 95:9 96:7,9 121:9	horses 104:23 117:12	HVDC 85:5
harnessing 80:2	heartless 42:19	hills 105:13	hospitalizations 47:23	<hr/> I <hr/>
harvest 37:2	heat 30:21 41:19	hiring 133:23	hot 37:15	i-e-l 44:4
harvesting 34:10	heavily 120:19	historian 124:17	hotel 26:10	ic 72:21
hauling 102:17	heavy 101:11	historically 110:17	hotels 70:15 83:23 86:19	idea 24:25 56:14 56:17 130:12
hazard 14:20	held 92:14,16 123:2	history 124:20	hotter 89:10	ideas 111:19
hazardous 62:11	help 6:11 10:11 16:18 19:16 32:14,14 39:15	hit 13:9 63:16	hour 25:18 47:4 79:17,18,19 80:4	IDENTIFIED 137:2
hazards 58:9	Hobbs 64:25 65:1,4,7,9,12 113:6 135:22	Hodges 40:12,13 40:16,19,19,22 40:25 135:14	hours 79:21,22 79:24	ignored 34:25
He'll 3:20	hold 21:2 67:3	holding 5:11 24:23 28:8	house 61:24,25 65:22 77:11 118:12	III 71:19,22,25 135:24
head 22:14,18	helping 72:11 75:16	holes 102:17	households 88:2	Illinois 79:18,23 81:20 105:15 105:17 116:17 132:16
headquarters 85:20	helps 30:8 94:2	holistic 18:6 20:5	Howard 101:6,9 101:13	illnesses 48:17
health 41:12 42:6 47:8,18 48:18 52:4 58:8 59:9 111:12,14 118:19 121:12	Henke 60:15,16 60:19,22,22,24 61:1 135:21	home 35:14 42:9 59:19,23 60:1 60:1,3,6 62:18 65:20 83:24 86:7 105:12 108:14 121:8 123:17 126:15	Hubbell 25:23 26:1 29:18 30:2 69:2,3,10 69:23 70:19 86:16 130:16 130:18	Imagine 108:11
hear 23:16 30:22 43:8 76:7 88:5 95:4 105:2,3,6	hereof 138:11	homes 30:11,13 105:22	huge 18:17,21 97:24 105:19 120:13 122:22	immediate 48:6
heard 49:23 63:3,7 73:15 86:15,22 102:15 103:1 104:14 106:24 109:19 114:8 115:3 119:5 122:2,2 124:16 126:13,18,18 130:10	Hickman 28:2	honest 126:11	humanity 88:19 89:17	impact 13:23 35:1 51:14 52:5 63:5 92:4 101:19
hearing 1:5 3:6 3:18 4:5 5:11 5:13,19 6:3,7,7 6:9,24 41:5 66:22 95:3 106:11 116:2	high 1:12 3:11 14:15,19,25 15:1 31:10 53:9 57:22 58:13 59:22,25 60:8 86:2 97:20 111:15	honestly 112:1 126:20	hundred 23:23 85:21 118:2	impacted 51:22
	higher 57:9 80:4 98:21	honorable 22:4	hundreds 25:20 71:3 82:10 95:9,13,21 105:18,18	impacts 86:11 91:24
	highlights 13:9	honored 38:14	hunting 34:7	impartial 6:23
	highly 9:1 86:8 89:6	hope 72:7,15 75:16 88:10 90:11 98:11 104:23 134:3	Huntsville 65:10 77:1 126:8 131:15	importance 25:1 29:19
	Highway 16:7 40:22 55:5 59:2 77:1 94:25 116:21 116:21 117:6 121:23	hopefully 73:20 97:2 104:15 133:7	husband 33:18 41:2 61:6,9 104:20	important 25:11 31:5 42:21 50:6 82:16 84:2 86:6 95:4 97:19 109:10 109:13
	highways 51:17	hopes 79:5	husband's 62:14	imposes 47:24
		hoping 23:1		impossible 35:11
				improve 78:18 88:9
				improved 46:13

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

48:16 improvement 57:14 improvements 46:10 improves 47:7 include 8:19 15:16 33:24 58:10,12 85:20 122:16 includes 29:10 53:13 61:6 including 17:22 52:19 54:12 58:9 67:11 81:20 83:12 89:11,25 income 18:8 32:13,15 38:17 38:19 48:19 100:24 133:13 133:17 incomes 30:13 33:1 100:24 103:7 incoming 32:8 inconvenience 34:4,8 increase 48:18 53:10 78:18 increased 14:11 14:23 32:24 48:12 88:25 91:11 93:22 increases 99:1 111:10 increasing 44:14 incur 73:14 indefinitely 95:19 independent 51:18 Indiana 81:21 116:17 125:11 indicate 14:8 indicated 12:17 13:6	indicates 13:4 indifferently 54:13 indirectly 47:9 48:8 individual 8:5 47:18 48:1 individuals 29:14 32:12 47:22 76:10 88:1 106:18 industry 85:24 inexpensive 25:4,7,11,23 infirmed 46:17 information 5:10 6:18 66:14 79:14 110:16 111:14 122:14 infrastructure 9:3 50:2,4 68:25 70:7 81:24 85:14 89:24 109:12 inhaled 47:1 inherit 104:16 initiative 92:2 Inner 100:18 innovations 72:13 inputs 48:21,22 insect-borne 89:21 Institute 81:23 insulated 30:13 insulators 69:14 insurance 48:13 integrity 14:21 19:2 intensive 90:16 intention 62:19 Interconnection 1:14 3:13 interest 16:19 31:9 33:4 39:5 40:6 78:25	90:13 93:19 108:18,18 115:8 interested 4:5 28:10 interests 18:2 106:5 123:12 interfere 65:21 120:4 interference 14:19 interferences 14:17 intermittent 53:18 interruptions 5:8 Intervenors 5:2 invest 7:25 72:17,17 invested 12:1 15:10 133:22 investigations 83:4 investing 133:15 investments 8:1 investor 57:16 investors 12:1 125:19 invited 97:10 involved 42:1 48:24 involves 90:14 ionic 58:11 irreversible 89:6 irrigate 29:3 irrigation 62:9 120:16 ishing 72:20 issue 4:7 13:12 13:13 20:22 24:25 31:3 102:23 issues 8:15 12:5 14:1 17:16 23:14 41:12	63:9 <hr/> J <hr/> James 24:1,2,5,8 30:25 45:19,20 45:23 46:1,6 135:8,16 January 59:15 Japan 96:20 Jeff 76:16,17,20 76:23 136:5 Jefferson 1:24 2:5,10 130:1 Jeffrey 7:7,9,12 7:15 135:3 Jerry 67:5,8 Jim 29:6 Joan 87:10,13 87:16,21 136:8 job 8:24,25 24:20 30:2 32:13 57:4 74:18 100:17 105:11 jobs 9:2 16:18 26:2,5,14 27:8 30:3 31:16 45:2,4,7 50:8 56:7,13,25 68:23 69:23 70:2,4 74:1 80:10,13,15 82:9,11 84:20 86:5 95:11,21 95:25 100:25 105:3,8 107:22 110:14 114:17 114:19 Joe 54:20,21,24 55:2 116:22 135:19 John 16:23,24 17:2,5 37:6 64:25 65:1,4,7 67:1 68:7,8,11 68:14 87:9 113:6 131:5,8	131:11 135:6 135:22,23 136:24 join 70:23 Joint 26:18 38:23 79:2 Joshua 2:22 4:12 journey 111:11 Judge 1:17,17 3:2,17 4:9,13 4:15,19,21,24 5:2 7:13,16,20 10:19,21 11:2 11:6,9 15:15 15:19,22 16:3 16:6,9,21,23 17:3,6,8 20:9 20:14,19 24:1 24:6,9,12 27:15,16,21,25 28:5 31:19,21 32:1,4,7 33:6 33:11,14,17 35:16,18,24 36:3,7 37:21 37:23 38:3,6,9 40:11,17,21,24 43:21 44:1,6 45:19,24 46:2 46:5 49:7,12 49:15,17 50:11 50:16,20,23 54:18,20,25 55:4,7 58:15 58:17,22 59:1 59:4 60:13,15 60:20,23,25 64:25 65:5,8 65:11 68:7,12 68:16,18 71:9 71:13,18,23 72:2,4,20 73:1 73:5,7,10 74:23 75:3,7 75:10,18,20,25 76:4,6,16,21
--	--	--	---	--

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

76:25 77:3 81:2,5,10,14 81:16 84:4,6 84:11,14,16 87:9,14,17,19 90:20,22 91:2 91:6 92:20 93:1,5,8 94:16 94:22 95:1 99:2,9,14,17 99:20,24 100:5 100:9,13 103:11,17,21 103:24 108:20 108:25 109:3,5 109:24 110:1,6 113:17,22 114:1,3 115:9 115:11,16,19 115:21 119:10 119:15,18,24 120:1 121:14 121:19,22,24 123:20 124:1,6 124:10 125:21 126:3,7,9 129:1,7,10,13 129:15 131:3,9 131:12,16 134:6 137:9 Julie 110:1,2,5,8 136:16 July 66:7,9,14 June 29:12 justly 27:5	73:6 74:7 79:17,22 80:1 80:2,25 81:20 84:25 85:10,19 86:18 95:22,23 109:9,11,14 114:24 116:9 116:16 125:10 Kathy 33:6,7,10 33:13 135:11 KCP&L 92:15 107:14 keep 6:12 30:20 85:16 86:7 93:18 101:25 106:11 122:7 127:7,11 131:25 keeping 18:7 82:19 keeps 107:7,8 133:20 Kelloggs 44:23 kept 102:1,11 Kertz 119:10,11 119:14,17,17 119:25 120:2 136:19 key 69:1 103:6 kidding 98:10 kids 22:21 88:17 killed 13:20 Kilo 56:3 kilowatt 29:6,8 39:9 79:17,18 79:19 80:4 107:5 110:15 kind 7:23 11:15 21:11 88:16 105:17 114:12 115:25 122:21 123:1 131:25 133:17 Kiran 59:21 Kirksville 46:4 46:7 KK 16:7	know 7:23 8:22 9:19 14:6 22:16 28:10 31:8 41:7 43:14 73:9 88:4,22 93:20 96:23 102:23 103:8 106:9,22 107:5 109:9 111:9 115:25 116:7,23 117:9 118:3,16,22 119:7 127:5,7 127:22,24 130:19 knowing 36:21 107:2 knowledge 125:8,16 known 39:17 61:21 98:21 knows 42:1 133:19 Koch 15:23,24 16:2,5,5,7,10 135:5 Kribbs 20:9,10 20:13,16,17,20 21:6,8 135:7 Kromer 54:20 54:21,24 55:2 55:2,5,8 Kronen 76:16 Kroner 58:17,18 58:21,24,24,24 59:2,5,6 76:17 76:20,23,23 77:1,4 135:19 135:20 136:5 KV 3:13	lack 11:17 lady 127:12 land 19:5,22 20:23 21:8,16 21:19 23:20 27:1 31:3 33:24 35:2 58:2,5,6 61:6 62:7,16,21 63:6,8,19 64:18,20 65:16 77:9 90:10 104:21 112:8 112:10,11 113:1,2 124:22 124:22 127:3 landlord 44:9 landowner 12:23 104:18 110:10 114:21 landowners 2:12,16 4:19 4:25 11:17,24 12:9 13:11 19:14 26:24 28:9 31:1,5,11 48:19 51:12 53:23 68:5 105:1 106:6 108:17 109:19 112:9 113:9 lands 19:9 64:21 landscape 34:25 105:10 108:8 121:6 landscapes 105:23 lanes 82:25 116:23 LaPlata 38:7,13 38:22 large 30:14 44:22 45:3 56:9 62:10,25 69:4 84:1 86:17 89:17 106:16,20	largely 34:25 larger 30:11 largest 13:14 26:6,7 44:15 84:23 86:23 Lata 92:22,25 93:3,3,7,9 136:10 lateral 114:20 Latin 8:9 Latz 92:21 laugh 131:25 Lavaute 99:25 100:1,4,7,7,10 100:14 136:13 law 1:17 2:13,18 2:22 3:17 8:8 53:16 lawyers 94:2 lead 46:23 89:19 leap 103:2 learn 66:13 learned 29:23 32:16,19 111:4 leave 60:7 107:4 107:9 123:14 123:16 132:2 leaving 62:19 88:17 Lee 24:1,2,5,8,8 24:10,13 28:12 29:17 135:8 left 63:12 106:4 108:8 127:13 legal 8:15 legally 19:20 lend 30:3 Lenexa 95:23 let's 3:2 8:10 86:16 103:8,8 letting 94:15 level 111:15 130:25 levels 48:22 89:14 100:24 liabilities 12:21 liability 12:5
<hr/> K <hr/> K-e-r-t-z 119:17 K-o-c-h 16:5 K-r-i-b-b-s 20:17 K-r-o-m-e-r 55:3 K-r-o-n-e-r 58:25 76:24 Kansas 2:23 31:2 47:14	<hr/> L <hr/> L-a-t-a 93:7 L-a-v 100:7 L-e-e 24:8 l-i-v-e-n 68:15 labor 51:9 86:3			

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

13:11 120:13 life 41:1 45:15 88:22 113:11 114:6 124:12 128:25 lift 29:2 Light 31:2 lights 30:20 liked 128:18 133:5 likes 127:25 likewise 40:2 limitation 54:8 limited 6:10 32:12 line 1:11,13,15 2:21 3:8,12,14 4:11 5:16 8:23 12:2,13,16,17 13:14,17 14:12 14:24 15:1 23:15,18 24:16 24:18 25:2,6 25:16,17,25 26:9,22 27:11 27:12 28:15,17 30:5 31:3,10 31:10,11,18 33:21,24 34:3 34:7,18 37:8,9 37:17,17 41:24 41:25 42:15 44:10 46:11 47:14 48:15,20 48:21,25 49:5 51:3,16,20,23 51:24,25 52:14 52:16,16,25 53:6,8,18,22 55:10,12,14 57:6 58:7 59:11,12,17,18 59:22,25 60:8 61:5,11,13,21 62:1,4 63:17 64:2,9,19,22 69:12 70:12,13	70:20,25,25 73:17,24 77:8 77:9,12,19,21 78:20 79:4,10 80:5,9,11 82:21,25,25 85:12 86:15 88:6 89:25 90:1,3,7,8 91:23 92:2,4 92:12,13,18 93:15 97:13,24 98:6,11,16,19 99:1,22 102:15 104:3,5,9,13 107:4 108:4 109:7 113:14 114:19,24 115:4 116:20 117:5 119:23 120:3 122:10 126:14,16 127:2 129:22 133:9,21 134:4 line's 36:20 37:10 60:11 91:19 lines 12:2,15 13:21 14:3,4 14:11,14,15,15 15:2,9 33:23 34:5,6,24,25 35:10 36:23,25 37:3,8 41:23 42:5,18,23,25 51:2,5 53:2 57:22 63:3,4 63:24 65:20 66:5 74:12 82:10,13 86:24 90:10 97:14,18 98:5 105:16,19 105:24 106:7 115:5 120:12 120:17 121:7 Linton 2:13 5:1 5:1	list 71:14 123:21 listed 5:22 79:17 79:19,22,23,25 listen 22:11,12 22:13,13 44:8 88:3 listened 105:2 115:23 126:19 listening 20:7 58:14 104:1 131:17 literally 77:11 Litigation 1:23 little 9:23 22:18 30:17 55:14,20 56:1 63:21,21 100:16 101:14 104:22 112:4 live 5:25 7:17 11:6 17:6 20:17 24:9 27:25 30:13 32:4,12,15 33:14 36:3,16 38:6 40:21 44:4 46:2,9 48:5 49:15 50:21 55:4,11 59:1,7 60:6,23 61:23 65:8 68:16,17 72:2 72:8 73:5 75:7 75:8 76:4,25 81:14 84:14 87:17 93:3 94:25 99:17 100:9,11 103:21,22 106:7 109:3 114:1 115:19 119:24 121:22 124:10,11 126:7 129:13 130:3 131:12 131:14 lived 110:24 116:9,9 121:10	121:11 127:4 lives 52:5 55:13 56:1 60:4 62:12,18 89:17 106:8 living 23:21 33:1 41:16 58:7 110:23 117:16 LLC 1:11 3:8 4:11 24:16 27:11 28:15 load 10:13 local 1:5 3:6 4:3 9:6 16:14 28:20,22 48:19 48:25 55:21 56:9 70:9 73:23 74:15,17 75:15 77:5 80:8 83:8,9,10 83:16,16,22 86:7,12,13,19 86:19,20 92:16 106:2 107:15 120:7 130:5,5 130:8 locally 49:4 133:23 located 25:24 69:2,8 86:25 locations 64:5 83:24 logistics 70:4 Lois 37:23,24 38:2,5,12 135:13 London 56:3 long 13:3 86:9 94:7 107:6 long-run 94:14 long-term 26:20 39:2 44:20 57:4 85:25 longer 105:20 look 12:11 20:4 20:4 97:12 98:3,25 108:9	108:12 109:15 116:24 127:23 looked 11:19 22:2,23 98:18 105:24 looking 102:7,10 118:20 127:6 lose 44:21 95:25 116:5 118:12 118:12,12 losing 96:25,25 loss 31:12 89:20 losses 56:9 57:4 109:20 lost 124:21,22 lot 20:20 21:17 21:18,19,19 23:4,14 28:10 28:25 41:11 42:24 53:3 86:22 97:6 98:15,21 105:2 105:3,15 110:18 114:13 114:15 118:19 119:6,7,7 124:12 126:12 127:4 lots 38:21 132:22 Louis 41:8 46:9 46:15,20 75:8 85:22 86:18 133:4 love 8:20 11:20 110:22,22 111:3 low 17:18 18:8 38:19 53:10 56:8,17 63:5 68:23 71:1 90:15 low-lying 89:16 lower 9:16 16:17 19:14 25:19 26:13 28:19 29:4 30:7,19
---	---	---	--	--

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

30:21 32:21,21 34:20 56:18 72:1 93:21 100:24 114:22 lowered 32:24 lowering 39:23 93:16 101:23 lowers 17:25 lowest 97:22 98:9 lucky 41:15 131:22 lungs 47:2 Lutz 92:20	9:15 82:9 122:12 major 63:9 72:6 132:17 majority 80:16 94:5 making 106:22 125:10,19 Mallory 99:3 Mamtech 56:6 125:7 man 126:25 130:19 manage 1:12 3:10 65:16 management 12:15 managing 100:19 mandated 120:12 maneuvers 62:9 manners 115:6 mantra 101:17 manufactured 26:1 manufacturer 26:6,7 69:4,4 manufacturers 51:10 manufacturing 70:2 82:8 114:18 map 52:8 maps 52:12 54:14 Marceline 130:11 March 5:13 79:15 margin 128:5 Mariner 33:16 mark 15:22 115:11,11,12 115:15,18 136:18 marked 52:8	54:12 marketability 78:18 marketing 19:11 57:7 marking 52:11 mass 89:19 material 46:24 materials 49:21 math 35:7 Matt 28:6 matter 1:10 3:7 40:10 Matthew 27:16 27:17,20,23 135:9 maximum 94:8 Mayor 24:13 26:16 28:12 38:12 39:22,25 Maywood-Mo... 1:14 3:13 Mazingo 103:12 103:13,16,19 103:20,22,25 121:14,15,18 121:21,21,23 121:25 136:14 136:20 McClure 71:17 71:19,22,25,25 72:3,5 135:24 Mealy 1:23 138:7,21 mean 30:21 39:9 86:23 87:3 100:16 126:18 means 28:19 78:8 89:20 93:19 meant 130:4 media 19:6,10 medical 133:13 133:18,19 meet 10:11 39:16 57:17 meeting 10:10	38:25 66:14 73:16 123:1 130:11,13 meetings 95:17 115:23 meets 56:24 megawatt 25:15 25:18,22 57:10 79:21,22,24 member 38:22 38:24 81:23 87:24 101:5,8 members 4:1 5:17 38:10 39:5 88:1 90:19 men 95:24 mention 15:8 48:2 mentioned 29:18 50:1 111:16 125:7 merchant 67:25 method 51:14 methods 11:21 metro 46:9,12 mic 119:21 Michael 1:17 3:16 113:17,18 113:21,24 136:17 micro 46:24 microphone 73:11 119:19 Mid-Missouri 87:24 middle 18:8 36:9 43:1 Midwest 1:23 82:14 migration 89:19 migratory 13:15 Mike 11:7 43:21 43:22,25 44:3 135:15 mile 61:5 86:25 99:21	miles 121:9 127:4 Miller 99:6,7,10 99:13,16,16,19 99:21 136:12 million 12:1 13:20 39:7 45:11 56:20 79:21,22,23 88:25 118:2 128:6 mills 17:11,14 105:16,19 mind 20:24 21:9 21:9 56:4 106:12 115:25 Minerals 97:15 minimal 92:4 120:6 minimum 35:1 minute 3:20 minutes 6:10 13:3 71:11 misinformation 53:15 110:19 MISO 29:12 misread 18:21 mission 100:22 Missouri 1:1,7 2:2,16 3:4,5 4:19 7:19 8:6 9:21,22 10:3,7 10:13,16 11:8 16:8 19:4,17 20:1,18 24:11 24:14,21 25:5 26:17 28:2,4 29:23 30:7 32:6 33:15,19 35:6 36:6 38:8 38:11,23,24 39:17 40:23 43:10 44:25 45:2,6,16 46:7 47:9,12 49:2 49:22 50:22 51:1 55:20
M				
M 11:7 36:17 71:25 M-a-l-l 99:4 M-a-z-i-n-g-o 121:21 M-i-l-l-e-r 99:7 99:16 M-o-z-i-n-g-o 103:20 machinery 36:21 Macon 32:5,9 33:2,20 44:4,5 45:12 Madison 2:4,9 11:8 Mae 71:15,15,15 magazine 54:4 magnetic 36:20 36:22 37:4 97:24 magnitude 43:2 main 2:23 42:6 maintain 1:12 3:11 45:2 66:5 97:21 maintained 12:16 53:9 maintaining 49:1 53:6 maintenance				

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

57:6,8,11,15 57:16,21 59:3 59:7,12,22 60:24 62:13 65:10 66:12 68:3,17,21,22 68:23,23,24 69:3 70:24 72:3,7,9,12,14 72:16,17 73:6 75:9 76:5 77:2 77:5 78:9,10 79:2,12,16 80:1,4,5,7,19 80:23 81:1,15 81:22 82:14,20 83:12 84:15,21 84:22,25 85:17 85:18 86:6,12 86:17 87:1,18 88:2 91:20,25 92:3,10,13 94:5,6,25 100:11,11 102:18 105:11 107:22 109:4,8 110:9,22 111:6 111:9 112:19 112:20 114:2,5 114:25 115:2 116:7,9 120:6 125:13 126:8 138:3,9 Missouri's 19:9 23:6 44:15 47:25 56:16 79:20 94:11 108:17 Missourians 7:22 46:12 47:9 48:1,14 56:25 85:13,23 88:4 90:2 mitigated 109:21 mix 47:16 91:13 Mizzou 114:7	MJMEUC 26:19 29:22 MO 1:24 2:5,10 2:14,19,23 Moberly 1:7 3:4 20:18 56:4 59:2,7 103:23 104:18 110:9 121:23 moderate 38:17 38:19 mom 22:13 moment 8:18 9:4 monetarily 18:25 money 11:18 15:11 19:11,13 19:16,19,24 21:17 23:19,20 30:3,17 32:14 55:15,24 61:25 63:11 83:15 86:21 104:20 106:10,23 107:17,22 117:11,19 120:24 121:5 124:24 125:4 125:19 126:21 126:22 127:7 127:17,22 128:22 132:22 133:16,22 134:1 Monnie 1:23 138:7,21 month 30:15,24 months 61:17 63:11 67:13 mood 7:24 MOPEP 39:18 morning 19:11 130:11 mothball 121:3 motivated 41:7 motto 8:6	move 49:1 52:5 62:2,3 109:11 113:15 127:24 moved 109:18 127:3 132:5 movement 102:24 mow 34:3,4 much-needed 72:12 multiple 97:5 multiplied 29:5 municipal 9:22 25:12,13 26:18 28:20 38:23 79:2 municipalities 31:14 48:20 70:24 mythology 51:3 <hr/> N N 2:1 3:1 135:1 136:1 name 3:16 5:23 5:25 6:8 7:6,13 7:14 11:2,3 15:23 16:3,4 17:3,4 20:14 20:15,16,17 24:6,7 27:21 27:22,23 32:1 32:2 33:11,12 35:24,25 38:3 38:4,11 40:17 40:18,19 44:1 44:2,3 45:24 45:25 49:12,13 50:16,17,18,19 54:25 55:1,2 58:22,23 60:20 60:21 65:5,6 68:12,13,14 71:24,24 73:1 73:2 75:3,4,5 75:25 76:1,2 76:21,22,23,24	81:10,11 84:11 84:12 87:14,15 87:21 91:2,3 93:1,2,3,6 94:22,23 99:4 99:14,15 100:5 100:6 103:17 103:18,19 108:25 109:1 110:6,7,8 113:22,23 115:16,17 118:11 119:15 119:16 121:19 121:20 124:6,7 124:8 126:3,4 129:7,8 131:9 131:10 names 5:21 123:21 nasty 126:24 Nathan 2:3 4:14 nation 18:4,18 85:2 nation's 109:16 nation-wide 81:20 national 24:21 98:18 109:10 natural 19:8 78:2 nature 92:3 Navy 110:25 near 42:5,23 52:3,7,17 85:2 nearly 13:3 necessarily 110:10 necessary 79:11 90:4 necessity 1:11 3:9 24:17 27:1 27:12 28:16 60:12 77:15 78:16 need 8:13,13 10:1,3,16 18:1	18:4,5 23:6 41:13 43:13 45:3 49:24 50:5 57:18,20 70:14 78:23 91:15 100:15 109:15 112:18 132:5 needed 23:3 41:6 44:10 47:16 62:25 63:2 71:1 86:3 133:18 needs 10:17 68:22,23,23,24 109:11 119:6,8 negative 4:6 negotiations 26:18 neighborhood 34:13 neighbors 12:22 34:16 35:12 62:16 87:3 126:12 neither 79:11 Nestle 44:23 net 57:4 79:20 never 32:24 41:25 52:16 62:19 new 9:3 18:11 29:12 30:22 42:16 48:10 56:3 65:20,22 69:23 85:13 86:8 96:3 104:25 105:1,5 117:24 130:6 132:14 night 41:6 83:25 128:21 nine 35:7,7 61:17 no-brainer 9:24 nobody's 118:21 118:22
--	---	---	---	--

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

nodded 22:19	91:15 129:18	operation 19:1	136:3	parallel 14:14
non-burned	obtained 80:24	45:13 65:21	ought 58:12	parcels 9:10
94:8	obvious 47:6	operations 70:3	98:22,24	33:24
non-farmable	obviously 21:22	operator 37:19	outgrown 61:24	parents 41:3,15
36:14	23:4,24 34:1	opinion 41:6	outlays 48:18	Paris 36:5
non-payment	39:4	Opitz 2:8 4:17	outside 47:4	Parkville 84:15
30:16	occupied 93:24	4:17	84:23 116:11	Parr 84:18,22
non-profit 87:25	occur 51:22	opportunities	over-reaching	85:1,4,10,12
102:5 107:12	October 59:14	70:6 106:10	90:13	85:18
noon 130:11	odd 118:7	130:21	overall 84:1	part 16:11 24:20
normal 41:23	offer 9:18,20	opportunity 8:4	87:5 90:5	28:11 31:1
46:3	10:7 30:15	10:11 11:11,25	overhead 13:21	32:13 34:15,24
north 33:19,20	43:12 85:23	16:16 32:20	overloaded	35:12 36:22
51:1 84:24	office 2:7,8 4:15	50:9,25 59:10	62:14	42:21 43:14
86:24 97:10,16	4:17 85:22	65:13 66:11	overlooked	50:3 57:13
116:10	offices 69:18	75:12 78:19	117:9	73:16 83:2
northeast 46:7	81:20 85:1,2	113:14 114:9	overruled 130:2	91:12 109:17
northern 30:7	official 26:4	130:24	owe 72:21	128:1 129:17
note 7:23 8:3	officials 43:7	oppose 51:13	Owen 7:12	participating
64:16,23 89:3	56:10 80:8	110:20 113:4	135:3	134:8
notice 106:3	125:15	113:13 131:20	Owens 7:7,7,9	participation
noticed 132:5	offshore 54:5	opposed 17:10	7:15,15,18,21	74:17
November	oh 20:25 101:17	21:22 23:24	owned 25:12	particle 46:24
32:10 67:2	oil 45:5 97:13	31:7 51:6	57:16	particularly
128:16	131:22	55:10 67:10	owner 19:22	46:16,17,23
NPUA 98:24	Okay 7:6,16,20	113:7 123:7	84:3 93:20,24	partner 25:25
nuclear 17:22	22:10 75:18	130:1,23	104:7	69:11
78:3	120:1	opposing 25:2	owners 19:16	parts 26:1 88:25
nuisance 34:19	Oklahoma	97:7 98:11	27:4 57:21	party 85:7
number 3:14 9:2	82:24 124:23	opposition 5:18	90:9	pass 39:1 47:1
51:19 102:4	old 22:2,24	14:12,23 66:22	owns 117:2	87:7 126:15
numbers 80:20	41:15 61:23	77:13 110:12		passed 26:15
122:15	95:18 132:7	optimal 34:7	P	28:21,23 41:3
numerous 44:16	once 51:4	option 62:3	P 2:1,1 3:1	pasture 34:1
46:7 64:5	112:12 113:1,2	options 17:24	P-l-a-s-t-e-r	62:7
92:14 95:17	oncologist 59:20	39:20	110:9	pastures 34:3
96:6,11	59:24	order 105:10	p.m 134:10	path 31:10
	ones 114:16	ordinance 91:9	P.O 2:4,9	55:11 61:11
O	online 98:4	organic 52:6	pace 85:17	77:8,10 78:20
O 3:1	open 34:7 63:12	organization	PAGE 135:2	110:11
O'Fallon 114:2	opened 42:17	87:25	136:2	pathway 85:24
O-t-w-e-l-l 75:6	51:4	organizations	pages 138:14	patience 24:23
O-w-e-n-s 7:15	opening 3:22	102:6	pan 126:4	Paul 2:17 4:21
Oak 2:18	operate 1:12	original 137:9	Pandora's 51:3	pay 9:25 23:9,13
oath 5:24	3:10 120:14	OSAGE 138:5	Papa 22:3	40:1 45:14
obstacles 18:7	operated 53:8	Otwell 74:23,24	paperwork	48:12 51:12
obtain 26:20	operating 53:5	75:2,5,6,8,11	20:20	103:9 108:1

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

132:5,9 paying 9:12 26:2 27:8 30:18 38:21 39:11 74:12 82:19 107:25 payment 15:8 Peace 87:25 people 8:16 20:25 21:10 23:5,17,19 25:1,3 30:11 30:17 33:2 41:12 43:2 50:9 55:11 56:10 63:4 65:24 66:24 67:12,16,22 70:7 74:5 85:18 91:22 92:5,9,11 93:25 100:20 100:23,25 101:10,12,14 101:16,17,20 103:7 105:6 107:16,20 108:1 109:12 112:9 114:4 115:24 116:7 117:10 118:16 122:1 123:15 124:13 125:12 125:18 128:17 128:19 130:6,8 131:18 132:5,9 132:25 133:23 people's 95:4 percent 13:5,7 17:19 38:18 52:23 57:25 67:11 69:24 91:15 96:2,18 128:5 132:19 percentage 132:2 perfect 107:12	permanent 85:1 95:11 permanently 56:14 permits 132:13 132:20,21,23 permitted 133:21 permitting 82:23 Perry 40:23 person 119:22 130:12 personal 58:4 104:5,10 131:21 133:1 personally 7:25 20:22 138:10 personnel 14:20 perspective 104:11 Peter 99:24 100:1,4,7 136:13 phase 90:16 Phil 50:11,12,15 50:18 135:18 137:5 Phillips 132:22 philosophy 18:15 19:2 72:11 phone 5:6 phrase 11:17 physical 48:3 Physician 59:21 Physics 72:6 pick 118:4 122:24 picture 18:6 20:5 96:8 piece 23:22 pigs 42:2 pipefitters 95:24 pipeline 14:3,12 14:22,24 80:14 pipelines 14:10	15:2 63:7,9 86:22 102:17 pits 126:25 place 4:2 11:16 12:10 21:12 23:1 62:3,18 98:5 117:14,19 117:20 122:12 125:6 132:19 places 37:8 116:15 plagues 46:16 plan 8:18 12:8 12:13 57:13 60:6 69:18 131:19 plane 105:14 planet 89:10 planetary 89:7 planning 81:19 plant 48:6 95:8 95:17 96:12 121:9,12 130:7 132:6,7 planted 21:15 planting 34:9 plants 46:15,22 95:15 96:1,3 96:21 107:15 120:19 121:4 132:12,18,24 Plaster 110:1,2 110:5,8,8 136:16 plausible 12:11 play 47:4 playing 130:25 please 5:3,6,23 6:25 7:8,20 11:2,9 15:5,5 16:3,9,15,19 17:3,8 20:14 20:19 24:6,12 27:21 28:5 32:7 33:11,17 35:24 36:7 38:3 40:4,6,17	40:24 43:18 44:1,6 45:24 49:4 50:16 54:25 55:7 58:22 60:20 65:6 68:12,18 71:13 72:17 73:1 75:3,25 76:21 81:10 84:11 87:7,14 91:2 93:1,6,8 94:22 99:14 100:5,13 103:17 108:25 109:5 110:6 113:22 115:16 120:1 121:24 124:1,6 126:3 126:9 129:7 131:9 plenty 120:7 plight 7:3 plug 35:14 plus 65:15 pocket 19:20 podium 5:24 point 62:3 92:1 97:22 98:9 116:1 pointing 76:12 points 91:22 108:13 pole 34:14 poles 43:2 62:10 police 57:10 policy 18:5 89:24 political 18:1,3 politicians 18:10 politics 19:24 politnicity 18:2 pollutants 47:1 pollution 46:23 46:23 48:2,17 58:10,13 96:2 112:3 pond 21:16	pool 16:11 38:25 39:6,18 poor 30:10 poorly 30:13 popular 91:9,10 population 38:18 47:25 124:25 porch 62:17 portfolio 10:8 25:10 39:20 portion 50:6 89:17 pose 14:20 position 11:15 66:20 67:15 105:4 positions 67:9 positive 4:6 48:25 positively 48:7 possibility 39:23 61:16,19 101:23 possible 42:25 50:8 90:9,16 90:17 116:19 possibly 25:18 posturing 18:2 potential 30:1 47:10 54:5 112:3 potentially 69:22 pound 117:13 power 11:18,19 11:20,21 12:14 12:16 13:21 14:2,4,11,12 14:14,15,24 15:2 16:12 17:18,20,22,23 17:25 18:3,16 24:18 25:6,8,9 25:11,14,17,17 25:23,24 26:9 26:20 27:12
---	---	---	---	--

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

28:17 29:8,18 29:22 30:5 31:2,3,10 36:23 37:7,8 37:18 41:23 42:25 43:9 44:10,24 46:15 46:22 47:6,15 48:6,8 53:12 55:20 56:23 57:8,8,9,17,19 59:12 68:4,24 69:2,3 70:25 71:4 77:23 78:1,3,9,11,13 79:4,5 85:24 86:1,4 90:1,8 90:15 93:15 94:6,8,9,13 95:8,17 96:12 96:18 97:3,18 107:14 112:20 116:14 117:18 117:22 118:5 120:8,12,17,19 120:19,24,25 121:3,7,9,12 128:16 132:6,7 132:12,24 Powered 119:22 powerful 52:16 ppm 89:1 preceding 138:14 precious 19:7 pregnant 61:14 61:18 premiums 48:13 prepare 51:23 present 1:19 5:3 11:11 138:10 presents 77:18 President 84:17 84:18 presiding 1:17 66:17 67:1 press 54:5	pretty 23:7 43:5 94:3 101:15 102:1 122:4 prevent 120:16 previous 79:7,10 122:17 previously 78:21 80:9 price 10:3 13:25 34:21 48:23 51:10 53:13 79:16 80:3 118:3 prices 26:14 39:13 57:1,2,9 108:2,7 primarily 28:19 80:6 primary 37:20 79:25,25 principle 19:18 130:20 prior 61:21 private 8:5 19:1 27:1,4,6 31:6 43:17,19 55:24 92:12,13 privately 92:14 92:16 Pro 24:14 28:12 probably 9:7 36:13,15 42:22 94:11 108:3 problem 14:9 19:18 34:4 41:22 53:25 problems 14:2 17:15 41:20 88:19 102:8 proceedings 1:3 71:12 134:10 138:10,12 process 34:19 133:11 Proctor 44:22 procured 11:22 procurement	85:8 produce 56:7 112:10 122:11 produced 47:13 103:4 producer 44:16 product 56:22 production 35:2 35:5,8 45:5 111:24 products 69:6 69:16 Professional 77:4 81:18 138:8,22 profit 19:1,25 78:13,19 106:17 107:23 128:5 129:23 profits 53:11 progeny 89:7 program 130:5 131:2 programs 100:21 project 5:18 10:2 25:25 28:19 29:15 31:7 32:22 33:3 35:4 39:4 40:5 45:3,7,10 45:15 49:19,23 50:2,3,7,7 55:10,19 57:12 66:13 67:23 68:20 69:14,16 69:19,22 70:9 70:11,19 71:7 72:12 74:1 75:13,17 76:8 81:21 82:4 83:2 85:23 86:5,6,10 87:6 90:6 101:22 102:13,15 103:1 110:11 110:13,17	113:4,13,15 114:8,10 118:25 122:3 122:18,19 123:8 131:21 132:17,19 projected 80:20 133:9 projection 89:20 projections 101:24 projects 14:25 55:25 70:5 74:9,10,10,13 76:9 82:15,21 83:15 84:1 85:3,16 114:13 118:23 promised 57:10 promote 56:17 78:25 94:9 promotes 29:16 promoting 56:13 promotion 57:11 prompted 96:10 promptly 89:5 proof 111:10 112:17 properly 15:7 52:13 properties 7:18 8:19 87:3 118:12 120:4 120:17 property 8:20 8:23,24 12:25 13:4 19:15,17 19:21 25:2 26:24 27:4,6 31:12 34:17,21 37:9,16 43:17 45:15 51:21,22 52:20 55:13,24 56:1,16 57:21 57:24 58:12	63:22 78:6 90:3,9 93:9,20 93:23,24 111:10 112:8 112:14,14 114:21 117:4 120:13 121:5 proponents 102:13 proposal 39:2 57:4 59:11 65:25 78:24 90:4 129:17 proposals 19:3 propose 14:25 54:16 proposed 39:8 41:24 42:15 51:2,24 52:3,7 53:8 57:12,22 59:18,22 61:9 62:1 77:8,10 77:12 78:20 79:4 80:5,9 83:1 90:3 93:15 97:8 98:7 104:3 133:20 proposes 65:18 proposing 51:1 92:18 pros 127:23 protection 9:14 protest 52:21 56:15 proud 128:4 prove 78:22 proven 17:12 provide 5:10,20 10:13 11:24 15:4 34:6,7 45:8 70:6 72:13 76:9 86:5 92:15,17 provided 43:10 provider 12:19 provides 10:11
---	---	--	---	--

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

17:18 27:4 49:21 providing 1:14 3:12 15:10 34:15 35:12 69:15 78:8 82:12,16 83:4 PSC 19:21 44:16 53:7,20 66:21 77:16 78:21 79:6,8 public 1:1,5 2:2 2:3,7,8 3:5,6 4:3,15,18 5:11 5:17 8:7,10,11 8:21,21 9:22 14:21 16:19 23:2 24:24 26:4 27:1,6,9 28:8 29:23 32:8,11 38:11 38:25 39:17 40:5 43:6 45:11 55:22 66:12 68:1,21 78:25 79:11 81:25 90:11,13 112:22 113:9 113:10 114:13 115:8 125:16 public's 39:4 publicity 19:7 published 13:17 13:24 pulling 107:22 pump 26:10 29:2 pumps 28:25 purchase 25:9 25:14,17 29:22 32:18,19 34:19 39:2 79:4 104:20 129:19 purchased 25:21 26:20 29:7 34:17 61:7,12,13,20	purchasing 29:7 61:22 70:24 86:12 purpose 5:19 18:20 purposes 27:2 push 107:24 pushed 111:13 pushing 107:23 put 5:24 13:17 14:4 36:18 48:14 61:25 70:16 74:2 85:12 108:16 108:17 118:10 118:14,18 127:1 putting 54:14 102:17 107:20 127:2 <hr/> <p style="text-align:center">Q</p> <hr/> quality 46:10,13 47:17 48:16 64:20 83:21 quantum 85:4,5 103:2 question 22:9 questions 6:22 6:25 67:15 quick 22:15,19 116:3 quickly 34:24 90:17 quote 13:16 14:9 quoted 53:13 quotes 13:18 <hr/> <p style="text-align:center">R</p> <hr/> R 2:1 3:1 R-e-m-o-l-e 94:24 radiation 112:15 119:1 radio 37:19 railroads 51:17 rainfall 89:12	raise 7:8 117:12 117:12 raised 33:19 60:2 114:5 raises 30:23 raising 101:24 Ralls 41:1 42:16 83:1 115:20 ran 22:6 63:13 66:19 67:7,8 102:5 Randolph 9:8 17:7 52:24 55:6,9 56:5,23 57:4 59:7,8 65:16,24 66:2 66:12,25 67:20 67:23 68:2 80:15,18 111:25 119:25 122:1,4,6 123:2,15 124:11 125:13 127:18 132:7 rape 19:8 rate 29:5 44:16 98:25 127:9 ratepayers 31:14 rates 29:25 32:21 43:11 46:19,20 132:1 Raven 103:11 103:16,19 136:14 Ravi 59:20 RAVIN 103:13 re-election 66:19 67:7 re-enacting 124:19 read 99:8 reading 99:3 ready 116:3 real 18:4 22:15 22:19,23 27:7 27:9 29:25	30:1 47:24 86:20 103:6 reality 59:25 60:9 realize 43:2 73:21 realized 73:23 really 19:22 22:24 42:17 56:10 94:1 101:10 102:12 107:8 108:4 109:20 115:7 122:25 130:9 131:19 reap 48:15 reason 22:8,20 44:11 51:13 112:9 116:13 127:15 131:21 reasonable 6:4 29:25 reasonably 8:16 reasons 17:11 44:18 51:7 110:21 113:5 124:18 rebar 86:14 rebuilt 95:19 receive 9:8 32:21 51:15 received 9:9 receiving 16:11 recess 71:11 recognize 83:7 recognized 26:25 recognizing 88:13 record 3:3 4:22 84:17 130:23 130:24 134:9 redistribute 108:6 redistribution 105:7,8 107:21 reduce 16:13	46:22 65:21 78:17 reduced 49:24 89:20 122:8 reduces 48:11 48:21 reducing 47:18 reduction 39:9 46:21 48:16 redundant 28:13 refer 88:15 referred 26:19 refineries 132:12 refinery 131:23 reflection 18:22 regard 59:10 regarding 5:14 13:17 53:12 88:5 regardless 19:6 53:9,12 region 29:17 82:7 regional 49:1 Registered 77:4 138:8,22 regulations 112:5 Regulatory 1:17 3:17 reinvest 70:6 83:17 reiterate 73:15 121:25 123:13 related 52:14 relationships 83:10 relax 7:24 release 54:5 released 54:4 79:15 reliability 17:15 94:9 reliable 17:23 18:13 45:9
---	--	--	---	--

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

96:22,23 112:19,20 reliance 46:21 relies 92:14 relocate 60:1,8 relocating 62:20 remain 6:23 remaining 4:1 remarks 3:22 remember 41:17 42:3 61:17 66:1,9 Remole 94:16 94:18,21,24,24 95:2 111:16 123:10 136:11 removal 53:22 renewable 10:8 25:9 44:21,24 45:4,16 49:19 49:25 57:18 71:2 76:13 91:8,12,16,20 109:7 114:25 renewed 49:24 50:5 rent 26:10 86:19 86:20 93:20 renter 93:21 Rep 94:17 repeat 58:6 123:1 report 79:13 REPORTED 1:23 reporter 15:20 54:19 138:7,8 138:9,22 Reporter's 136:25 138:1 represent 97:23 representative 113:6 123:11 130:16,17 representatives 7:2 83:19 96:11,16	representing 4:22 123:11 request 7:3 77:17 78:22 requesting 77:14 requests 11:16 require 53:7,21 requirements 39:16 Research 17:11 researched 64:4 reside 16:6 28:1 40:22 110:9 residence 77:7 residential 51:21 57:23 residents 16:14 20:1 38:16,17 38:21 39:22 45:17 51:15,19 70:21 71:3 78:10,20 79:12 90:9 104:1 109:8 120:7 122:5 123:6,7 residing 3:17 46:14 69:24 88:2 resolution 26:16 39:1 66:8 resolutions 67:6 resonating 107:8 resource 109:10 resources 14:3 78:2 82:17 115:2 respect 13:13 63:21 respiratory 46:19 47:20 responsibilities 32:13 74:8 rest 106:8 restart 121:3 restaurants	70:15 83:23 restoration 53:23 restricted 77:22 retail 79:16 80:3 retained 137:9 retired 44:8 55:8 59:8 93:12 return 83:25 revenue 56:14 57:1 80:20 revenues 80:11 reverse 89:5 rich 30:10 Richard 71:16 71:19,22,25 135:24 ride 42:10 right 7:8 8:13 13:6 14:13 35:19 36:9,16 36:16 39:10 43:18 49:24 55:16 56:15 61:11 72:5 76:13 77:15 78:17 80:22 83:17 87:1 94:5,11 95:8 98:18 102:18 107:18 116:3 116:22,22 117:6,20 133:8 right-of-way 14:5,6 117:2 right-of-ways 14:16 rights 26:25 27:3 31:5 58:12 64:8 78:6 rights-of-ways 51:17 ringer 5:7 ripped 61:2 rise 89:2,3	rising 89:14 risk 111:14 120:14 risks 42:1 52:4 111:12 118:19 121:12 River 100:11 102:18 road 9:15 20:18 36:5,5 63:14 65:9 78:13 100:10 101:25 114:7 126:22 130:6 131:14 133:12,14,18 roads 62:24 66:6 Robin 60:15,16 60:19,22 135:21 rock 11:15 Rod 81:5,6,9,12 136:6 Rollins 28:3 Romaine 2:14 Ronald 129:3,6 129:9,11 136:23 room 7:22 41:17 47:22 roomful 123:6 rooms 26:10 roots 87:25 Rose 58:17,18 58:21,24 59:6 135:20 route 11:7 33:21 52:3,7 65:18 73:24 74:16 routes 51:14 routine 59:14 row 62:8 Roy 121:14,15 121:18,21 136:20 RPR 1:23 rules 6:3 ruling 79:1,7	run 28:25 29:1 30:13 37:6 66:18 94:7 95:19 106:15 running 13:8 42:25 43:16 runs 6:21 37:10 Rupp 1:21 3:19 3:25 21:2 119:20 rural 40:1 49:22 51:14 58:1 78:10 101:5,13 111:9 121:6 <hr/> S <hr/> S 1:23 2:1 3:1 137:1 138:7,21 S-a-c-h-t-l-e-b... 81:13 Sachtleben 81:5 81:6,9,12,12 81:15,17 136:6 sacrifice 113:11 113:12 sad 43:5 127:6 safety 14:20 98:16,19 111:15 115:5,6 salamander 118:21 sales 57:12 Salsbury 60:24 129:14 Sarah 71:16,16 sat 115:22 save 39:5 56:19 71:2 104:20 118:21 saved 110:14,14 133:2 saving 125:3 savings 25:19 28:21,23 29:13 29:25 39:8,19 73:23 saw 63:24 64:4
--	---	--	---	--

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

<p>saying 29:6 35:19 39:11 43:11 88:7 97:9 says 19:19 35:7 37:6 63:17 67:25 scams 125:5 scares 42:12 scene 72:21 scheduled 5:12 5:15 school 42:9,16 52:15 63:13 130:6 schools 9:13 19:12 28:22 42:19 45:11 52:2,7,9,11,20 52:22 54:13 95:12 119:4 scientific 82:11 scientists 82:18 83:21 Scott 1:21 3:19 screen 79:9 screenings 59:14 sea 89:14 season 42:9 seat 71:14 130:9 second 61:12 sector 86:9 secured 29:24 Security 120:23 see 5:4 11:20 16:15 20:21 23:2 30:15,19 30:24 40:4 62:17 63:23 79:8 97:25 105:12,13,15 105:18 106:14 109:20 111:8 112:22 116:1 118:13 122:13 122:15 126:11</p>	<p>134:6 seeing 89:14 90:14 99:5 seek 56:15 80:22 81:1 seeking 55:15 78:7,15 88:5 seen 13:24 80:14 106:17 118:22 120:6 125:5 self-defeating 18:12 selfish 18:2 sell 12:14 56:22 87:15 117:18 129:22 sells 108:14 Senator 101:16 Senators 97:4 send 116:14 117:20 sending 125:11 Senior 72:5 sense 43:14 48:7 107:10,13 118:15 sensitive 92:6 sent 57:9 separation 111:17 September 65:25 66:1 serious 8:3 101:15 seriously 46:18 serve 56:25 80:6 97:4 served 110:24 service 1:1 2:2,3 2:8 3:5 8:11 12:19 13:19 23:2 38:11 39:3 70:3 78:23,25 79:12 90:11 92:17 services 1:23 9:14 26:11</p>	<p>45:12 52:18 81:18 82:13 83:3 84:19 92:15 servicing 66:2 125:18 set 3:6 10:8 102:6 133:16 138:11,14 seven 62:6 severe 89:11 severely 101:19 sewer 28:24 31:10 130:6 shadow 55:12 77:12 sharing 14:14 20:6 sheet 5:22 6:8 7:6 138:11 shoes 63:14 108:16 shop 32:18 shopping 16:10 short 71:10 93:18 116:18 119:4 short-lived 20:3 106:6 short-term 80:16 shortest 116:19 Shorthand 138:7 shortly 3:20,25 shoulder 12:4 shovel 41:18 show 4:24 51:24 65:23 Show-Me 2:12 showed 63:21 96:8 shown 57:20 shows 17:11 shut 17:15 30:15 96:1 118:23,25 shutdowns</p>	<p>95:20 shutting 17:13 127:19 sickened 48:1 sides 126:19,19 Sierra 96:5 sight 34:8 51:20 sign 62:15 79:3 sign-up 5:22 6:8 7:6 signed 66:3,8 67:5 85:5 123:21 significant 15:11 29:13 39:19 45:14 47:21 89:4 significantly 48:21 101:23 silly 100:16 silver 22:7 similar 83:1 simple 21:11 simply 48:14 78:12,17 sin 72:21 single 95:13 Singleton 24:10 sir 10:21 36:4 58:15 99:18 119:24 121:24 131:13 sister 62:12 104:14 sister-in-law 63:23 site 62:13 90:8 sites 14:12,24 sitting 131:17 situations 101:15 six 41:19 67:13 sixth 64:10 94:17 skilled 86:3,8 skin 116:5 118:9 skyline 111:9</p>	<p>112:15 slowly 30:6 sludge 102:25 small 30:12 38:20 39:25 40:2 74:6 smaller 14:7 smell 125:6 smiled 22:23 smoke 79:9 96:17 snafu 18:3 social 100:18 120:23 Society 82:1 soft 51:17 soil 63:5 64:20 83:11 solar 10:12 17:20 solicited 79:2 solution 103:2 solutions 102:7 102:10 somebody 30:23 124:14 131:3 somewhat 111:13 sons 40:25 41:4 104:15 sorry 14:13 15:13 56:12 129:10 sort 102:11 sound 35:10 sounds 100:16 source 47:24 48:10 73:20 80:1 96:22 sources 17:21 19:25 94:8,13 south 28:1,3 37:9 85:21 99:19 116:10 126:16,16 Southern 97:4 span 97:21</p>
--	--	--	---	---

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

<p>131:10 spans 36:22 speak 9:1 10:1 20:21 24:15 28:14 50:25 59:10 65:14 71:6 75:12 84:19 87:23 94:15 110:12 115:24 121:1 123:5,7 124:15 129:16 130:13 speaker 122:17 122:19 speakers 122:3 122:7 speaking 7:4 75:12 91:17 special 61:8,11 specialized 80:17 specific 100:22 spell 7:13 11:3 16:4 17:4 20:15 24:7 27:22 32:1 33:12 35:25 38:4 40:18 44:2 45:25 49:12 50:17 55:1 58:23 60:21 65:5 68:13 71:24 73:2 75:4 76:1 76:22 81:11 84:12 91:3 93:2,5 94:23 99:15 100:6 103:18 109:1 110:7 113:23 115:17 119:15 121:19 124:6 126:4 129:8 131:10 spelled 27:24 50:19 55:3 58:25 76:24</p>	<p>91:4 spend 83:22 86:21 132:22 spent 21:17 83:15 114:6,11 118:19 126:22 spoke 66:21 122:19 126:17 128:17 130:16 130:18 spoken 28:12 spot 61:10,11 63:24 spouses 46:8 spraying 42:24 spread 89:21 Spring 2:14 square 35:5 ss 138:4 St 41:8 46:9,15 46:20 72:3 75:8 85:22 86:18 116:22 133:4 stabilized 16:17 stack 63:25 stacked 63:25 staff 2:2 4:13 6:17 7:1 50:7 59:5,21 74:9 stakeholder 12:22 standard 10:8 91:8 standards 53:9 53:10 56:24 57:18 standing 61:17 62:17 standpoint 70:10 107:11 stands 88:21 start 7:22 24:22 88:7 91:7 96:10 started 4:8 32:21 61:13</p>	<p>96:5 133:24 starts 29:11 99:4 state 1:1 5:17,25 7:13 8:6,6,8 9:13 10:4,5,9 11:2 16:3,7 17:3 20:14 24:6 25:1 27:21 32:1 33:11 35:24 38:3 39:15 40:17 43:16 44:1 45:24 46:21 49:12 50:16 53:24 54:9,25 58:22 60:20 65:5 68:3,12 71:24 72:16 73:1 75:3,25 76:21 77:5 78:7 81:10 84:11 85:14 86:7,17 86:21 87:5,14 90:15 91:2 93:1 94:13,17 94:22,25 97:4 97:16 98:7 99:14 100:5 103:17 104:9 108:25 109:16 110:6 113:22 114:18 115:16 116:16 117:2 119:15 121:19 123:10 124:6 126:3 129:7 131:9 138:3,9 state's 16:19 33:4 40:5 stated 41:13 79:20 80:21 statement 13:23 54:7,10,11 58:3 66:1 137:4 statements 67:9</p>	<p>106:4 states 10:15 13:21 14:11 42:1 79:14 80:6 97:1,5,14 110:25 128:2 station 1:14 3:12 83:1 stations 29:2 82:23 83:23 statistically 47:20 stay 43:8 86:18 112:21 steadily 44:12 44:13 steady 85:17 steam 96:14,18 steering 37:18 stenotype 138:12 step 116:4 stepped 112:4 Steve 37:22 84:6 84:7,10,13 136:7 Steven 1:20 3:18 Stewardsville 62:12 Stoll 1:20 3:19 3:21,23 10:20 16:22 20:8 21:4,7 27:14 31:20 33:5 35:17 37:22 49:6 58:16 60:14 64:24 71:8 72:19 74:22 75:19 76:15 81:4 84:5 87:8 90:21 103:10 109:25 115:10 123:19 134:5 stop 64:2 stores 86:20 stories 108:10</p>	<p>108:11 storms 89:12 straight 117:5 strategic 25:24 Street 2:4,9,23 28:2,3 33:16 stresses 47:25 48:3 strictly 77:24 strong 26:24 structural 82:17 structure 8:20 8:23 95:18 structures 33:25 34:9 35:6 62:7 83:6 111:8 struggle 40:1 stuck 53:24 student 22:4 students 19:15 43:7 52:24 studied 124:19 studies 13:1,6 118:20 120:10 study 18:5 119:1 122:9 studying 119:8 stuff 50:4 118:13 128:2 stupid 133:7 subcontractor 83:11 subcontractors 83:16 Subdivision 93:10 subject 14:16 58:8 submit 6:15 subsidies 122:16 122:18,22 subsidizing 120:19 substantially 93:16 120:4 substation 69:5 117:24</p>
--	--	---	--	--

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

<p>substations 82:14 subsurface 83:4 successful 17:12 102:9 suffered 48:4 suit 64:8 Suite 1:24 suits 31:2 sum 124:16 summer 30:14 97:6 summit 97:11 super 89:12 supervisor 133:4 supplement 23:12 supply 69:13 95:11 120:8 support 5:18 16:13 24:15 25:6 26:4,14 27:10 28:14 32:22 45:1,11 49:18,19 67:24 71:7 73:18 75:13,17 76:8 76:11 82:3,13 87:6 95:12 106:19 114:9 122:22 131:1 134:3 supported 66:18 67:6 127:22 supporter 26:24 68:19 supporters 101:11 106:2 supporting 52:19 66:9 69:25 107:17 114:18 supports 29:15 132:9 supposed 56:7 supreme 8:7,8</p>	<p>sure 5:6 10:9 23:15 30:22 44:10 74:9 122:4,13 surpass 46:20 surprised 106:2 surrounding 69:21 survey 38:18 surveying 74:7 surveyors 82:18 83:20 survivor 59:13 suspect 57:3 sustainability 82:4 sustainable 48:11 81:24 82:5 sustained 68:24 sustaining 69:1 sweat 21:18 sweeteners 56:8 switch 44:20 sworn 7:10 10:24 15:25 16:25 20:11 24:3 27:18 31:23 33:8 35:21 37:25 40:14 43:23 45:21 49:9 50:13 54:22 58:19 60:17 65:2 68:9 71:20 72:23 74:25 75:22 76:18 81:7 84:8 87:11 90:24 92:23 94:19 99:11 100:2 103:14 108:22 110:3 113:19 115:13 119:12 121:16 124:3 125:25 129:4 131:6</p>	<p>sympathy 26:23 system 18:12,23 37:7 systems 25:24 29:18 42:22 50:5 69:2,3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <hr/> <p>T 137:1 tab 118:4 table 6:17 102:14 107:5,9 127:14 132:2 tainted 112:13 113:2 take 5:13 13:12 15:6 21:21 52:10 68:5 71:10 100:25 114:9 116:24 117:3,24 122:21 125:6 128:18 taken 35:4,8 89:5 96:2,11 takes 28:10 talk 8:10 13:4 68:22 100:14 112:16 113:8 114:16 115:24 131:19 talked 127:19 talking 29:7,13 32:23 89:9 91:8 125:9 126:20,21,22 127:2,7,8,13 127:16,17 131:18 talks 30:23 taller 43:3 tap 119:21 Target 44:23 targets 91:11 tax 9:9,12 19:11 52:20 56:13,15 57:1 73:22,22</p>	<p>80:10,18 81:1 127:17 132:8 taxes 9:5 19:16 45:11,15 56:16 80:23,24 82:19 105:3 114:21 120:20 taxpayer 121:4 taxpayers 53:24 107:17 122:24 team 57:7 teamed 74:15 teaming 74:18 tears 21:19 technical 21:5 29:10 technologies 132:25 technology 96:4 102:13 132:14 132:23 tell 4:4 23:6,8,10 33:22 64:13 95:16 105:4 127:5 132:11 132:18 telling 128:3 Tem 24:14 28:12 temporary 85:2 101:1 106:6,12 106:13,13 107:6 ten 17:10 71:11 108:11 118:23 Tennessee 82:24 terrible 96:7 terribly 102:9 test 119:20 testified 7:11 10:25 12:9 16:1 17:1 20:12 24:4 27:19 31:24 33:9 35:22 38:1 40:15 43:24 45:22</p>	<p>49:10 50:14 54:23 58:20 60:18 65:3 68:10 71:21 72:24 75:1,23 76:19 80:9 81:8 84:9 87:12 90:25 92:24 94:20 95:22,24 99:12 100:3 103:15 108:23 110:4 113:20 115:14 119:13 121:17 124:4 126:1 129:5 131:7 testify 6:4,6,7,9 7:10 8:25 10:24 15:25 16:25 20:11 24:3 27:18 31:23 33:8 35:21 37:25 38:14 40:9,14 41:10 43:23 45:21 49:9 50:13 54:22 58:19 60:17 65:2 68:9 71:20 72:23 74:25 75:22 76:18 81:7 84:8 87:11 90:24 92:23 94:19 99:11 100:2 103:14 108:22 110:3 113:19 115:13 119:12 121:16 123:22,23,23 124:3 125:22 125:25 129:2,4 131:4,6 testifying 42:4 43:6 testimony 5:9,21 6:10 7:12 11:1</p>
--	--	--	--	---

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

15:16 16:2	37:20,21,22	52:13 54:9	132:17	toe 16:16
17:2 20:13	40:8,10,11	63:1,17 74:21	three-quarters	token 79:5
24:5 27:20	43:20,21 44:7	96:6 98:15	99:21	told 52:9 57:21
31:25 33:10	45:17,19 49:5	112:24 115:3	thrilled 69:10,10	59:20,24 60:7
35:9,23 38:2	49:6,7 50:10	117:8 133:24	throwing 134:1	62:6 96:6,7
40:16 43:25	50:11,20,24	think 7:25 39:10	tied 118:10	98:6 116:8
45:23 49:11	54:15 55:9	41:22 43:1,5	tight 103:7,7	127:10
50:15 54:24	58:13,15,16	49:4 61:3	tilted 131:1	toll 78:13
58:21 60:19	59:6,9 60:12	88:16 92:7	Tim 4:17 24:19	Tom 92:20,22
65:4 68:11	60:13,14 64:23	94:7,11,14	49:7,8,11,14	92:25 93:3
71:22 72:25	64:24,25 65:13	95:3,7,22	94:16,18,21,24	136:10
75:2,24 76:20	68:5,19 71:5,7	98:17,22,24	111:16 123:10	tonight 5:21
81:9 84:10	71:8,9,14	107:13,15,16	135:17 136:11	6:22 7:4 35:9
87:13 91:1	72:18,19,20	108:4 111:12	timber 34:6	50:25 75:11
92:25 94:21	73:8,12 74:21	111:13,14,16	timberland 19:7	77:13 87:23
95:3 99:13	74:22,23 75:11	112:19 114:10	time 3:6 6:5,12	104:4 105:2,6
100:4 103:16	75:17,18,19	115:6 117:8	6:13,15,20,21	106:24 108:17
108:24 110:5	76:14,15,16	119:6,18 122:2	13:8 15:12	109:19 116:8
113:21 115:15	81:1,3,4 84:3,4	124:14 125:6	21:25 22:6,11	119:5 123:5
119:14 121:18	84:5 87:6,7,8,9	125:14 127:6	23:11 24:23	124:16 126:11
124:5 126:2	87:20 88:3	127:12 130:12	28:11 30:18,23	130:9,18
129:6 130:22	90:18,19,20,21	131:4 133:11	40:9 43:20	131:18 134:8
131:8 135:3,4	92:19,20 94:16	thinking 42:12	44:7,17 50:5	top 63:15 121:2
135:5,6,7,8,9	95:2 99:1,24	133:15	50:10 52:19	topic 9:4
135:10,11,12	103:9,10,11,25	thinks 102:23	54:8,15 71:5,6	total 52:23 58:2
135:13,14,15	108:18 109:23	Thomas 95:8	73:9,13,14	93:21
135:16,17,18	109:24,25	96:7,9 121:9	78:5 81:2 87:7	totally 98:1
135:19,20,21	113:15 115:8,9	129:25	88:3 93:19	tough 105:17
135:22,23,24	115:10 119:8	thought 7:22	95:20 105:11	128:8
135:25 136:3,4	121:13 123:10	119:6	108:19 113:16	tour 97:16 98:2
136:5,6,7,8,9	123:18,19,20	thousand 64:21	118:20 123:4	tours 96:10,12
136:10,11,12	125:20 128:23	126:14	128:13,24,24	touting 122:16
136:13,14,15	131:2 134:2,4	thousands 25:20	134:3 138:12	tower 36:15,18
136:16,17,18	134:5,8	71:3 83:22	time-consuming	towers 77:12
136:19,20,21	thankful 41:21	95:13	34:11	108:9 120:15
136:22,23,24	thanking 24:22	threat 98:13	timely 9:3	town 24:20
testing 49:21,22	Thanks 94:15	threaten 57:24	timer 6:11	28:24 31:13
thank 3:23 4:8	thing 92:9 93:14	89:15	times 17:21	39:25
4:24 10:17,19	94:4 105:3,9	threats 88:21	44:17 52:10	township 9:15
10:20,21 11:10	106:11 117:22	three 33:23	120:9 128:12	track 6:12
15:12,21 16:20	125:2,9,12	39:12 45:8	Timothy 2:8	tract 58:2,3
16:21,22 20:6	126:24 127:23	50:8 51:25	tired 64:13	64:18
20:8,9 23:25	128:9,15,21	64:18 66:2,7	today 3:3,18	tractor 42:10
27:13,14,15	132:4	78:24 79:6	21:18 23:5	98:12
28:8 31:18,19	things 9:25 10:6	104:12 107:1	38:25 63:4	tracts 64:18
31:20 33:4,5,6	12:20 13:10	107:25 120:9	102:18 116:11	traditional
35:14,16,17	15:5,6 52:11	121:9 127:4	123:24	46:14

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

traditionally 18:25	treat 7:5 63:20	72:24 74:25	85:20 97:14	17:16
traditions 104:17,25	treated 7:5	75:1,1,22,23	98:5 104:4,15	untrue 96:6
traffic 62:25	tree 44:9	75:23 76:18,19	107:1,25	unusual 30:12
116:23	trees 21:15	76:19 81:7,8,8	108:10 120:3,9	upfront 13:6
train 87:4	105:12	84:8,9,9 87:11	123:6 130:21	upgrades 86:1
102:19,19	tremendous 9:2	87:12,12 90:24	two-time 59:13	uphold 79:9
transcribed	29:19	90:25,25 92:23	type 53:17 70:5	urge 27:10
138:13	tried 96:24	92:24,24 94:19	typically 30:10	31:17 74:19
TRANSCRIPT	trillion 120:22	94:20,20 99:11	30:11	77:16
1:3	122:23	99:12,12 100:2		urgently 47:16
transfer 78:13	triple 129:23	100:3,3 103:14	U	usage 15:9
transferring	Tripplet 99:19	103:15,15	U.S 13:18 26:25	use 12:14 28:25
78:8	tromp 19:4,21	108:22,23,23	52:17	29:1,2 42:18
transition 102:3	trouble 38:21	110:3,4,4	ugly 121:6	43:13 55:15
103:4	99:2	113:19,20,20	uh-huh 22:19	58:5,6 73:10
translates 93:22	trucks 70:16	115:13,14,14	un-do 112:13	77:15 78:17
translating 8:8,9	true 9:17 18:7	119:12,13,13	unbelievable	83:12 86:20
transmission	19:12 114:23	121:16,17,17	56:21	96:15 118:5
1:13,15 3:11	Truesdell 67:1	124:3,4,4	undergraduate	useful 51:18
3:14 5:16	truly 45:17	125:25 126:1,1	111:1	user 37:20
33:21,23,24	115:7	129:4,5,5	underneath	users 28:24
34:6,18,24	Truman 1:24	131:6,7,7	34:2	44:22
35:10 39:2	Trump 121:2	truthful 110:18	understand 14:1	uses 30:9 53:3
47:12 51:5	Trump's 128:18	try 6:3 28:13	22:3 41:24	usually 20:3
56:24 57:22	trust 90:7	124:16	43:15 90:2	105:5
63:3 64:18,22	truth 7:10,11,11	trying 17:15	97:19 111:20	utilities 9:22
65:20 69:5,13	10:24,25,25	96:21 102:2	117:3	28:25 31:6
73:24 74:12	15:25 16:1,1	115:25 116:1	understandable	57:17 83:7
77:9,19 79:10	16:25 17:1,1	117:18 133:11	23:22	107:14
82:9,13 83:5	20:11,12,12	133:16,24	understanding	utility 25:13,13
83:15 84:1	24:3,4,4 27:18	tubes 133:25	9:16,20 77:21	26:19 28:20
85:6 86:24	27:19,19 31:23	tucked 22:18	80:20	29:23 30:14,18
88:5 114:24	31:24,24 33:8	turbines 44:12	undone 113:3	30:19,21,23
transmit 53:17	33:9,9 35:21	62:14,15,18	unfortunately	31:14 32:21
82:5	35:22,22 37:25	121:6	8:15,18	34:14 38:21
transmitter 68:1	38:1,1 40:14	turn 98:1	union 95:24	40:1 55:22
transportation	40:15,15 43:23	turned 5:7 22:1	Unit 69:7	66:5 68:1 79:3
50:4	43:24,24 45:21	22:2 31:4	United 13:20	92:15,17 93:16
travel 105:15	45:22,22 49:9	two 7:18 9:7	41:25 79:14	94:1 100:23,23
traveled 97:10	49:10,10 50:13	12:1 25:8	97:14 110:25	107:24 114:12
128:1	50:14,14 54:22	36:13,15 37:8	128:2	utilizing 83:8
traveling 4:1	54:23,23 58:19	39:11 40:25	University 41:8	
traverse 20:24	58:20,20 60:17	42:19 52:7	41:8 59:21	V
90:10	60:18,18 65:2	54:12 55:17	72:7 114:6	V 1:8
traverses 13:14	65:3,3 68:9,10	64:19,21 66:3	unprecedented	V-e-a-m-o-n
	68:10 71:20,21	66:19 67:15	89:2,19	131:11
	71:21 72:23,24	69:7 78:23	unreliability	vacant 105:21

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

valuation 12:25	113:5 128:10	2:19 18:17	107:21	willing 108:1
value 13:5 19:21	128:10,17	41:8	wealthier 30:11	116:5 118:10
51:22 58:2	vulnerable	wasn't 34:22	wearing 95:16	win 20:1
65:22 83:8,14	101:20	63:16	124:18	win-win 45:17
87:5 93:22		wasting 120:24	weather 89:11	wind 8:1,2 9:21
111:10	W	121:4	weekly 83:22	10:2 11:18,19
values 19:15	W 1:24	watched 102:19	weeks 23:15	11:20,21 17:11
51:21 57:24	W-h-i-t-m-o-r-e	131:24	61:12	17:14,14,18,20
112:8 113:1	113:25	water 13:15	weigh 90:6	23:11 25:4
129:20	W-i-l-c-o-x	28:24,24 29:3	welcome 3:24	26:21 29:24
variety 110:21	87:16	48:24,24 49:3	4:4	39:13 44:11,12
vast 94:5	wagons 37:2,18	82:17 109:13	welfare 8:7 47:8	53:18,19 54:1
vastly 48:23	37:18	watts 97:9 98:8	well-being 47:18	54:2,2 62:14
Veamon 131:5,8	waived 56:14	way 10:4 12:17	well-read 122:9	62:18 71:1
131:11,11,14	80:22	13:23 34:21	went 21:19,23	77:20,23,24
131:17 136:24	walk-ins 97:12	35:13 61:4	55:16 62:23	80:2 105:16,19
vebing 72:21	want 3:21 15:16	63:24 92:4	63:8,22,23	109:10 115:2
vendors 86:13	20:1,23 21:21	96:24 98:17	64:20 67:13	116:8,11,15
versus 31:6 56:3	22:8,11,12,12	101:4,12	79:1 97:12	120:8,19,25
106:6	22:13 24:22	112:12,13,21	98:2 103:2	121:6 122:10
viable 17:24	28:8 33:22	112:23 113:11	114:6 125:15	window 134:1
120:8,20	42:2 43:15	116:19 124:18	weren't 102:9	winds 47:14
Vice 84:18	55:12 57:18	124:19,21	125:12	54:6 58:11
vicinity 58:7	64:9 71:5 73:8	ways 53:22	west 38:7 93:4	125:10
Victor 100:8	75:11 78:12	we'll 4:7,9 15:22	117:5	winning 20:2
view 2:14 104:6	94:4,7 95:2	21:2 71:11	western 67:4,20	winter 30:14
112:14 116:1	103:25 108:14	87:4	109:11,13	wipe 37:4
views 104:5	110:12 111:6,8	we're 3:4 22:25	Westwood 32:5	wipes 102:1
virtually 36:14	111:23 113:9	23:1 29:7,13	Whitmore	Wisconsin 63:23
visibility 63:16	113:10,11	32:23 38:24	113:17,18,21	wish 25:3
visit 62:23	117:10,10	39:10 69:14	113:24,24	witness 6:21
visits 47:22	127:7 128:9	70:10 86:25	114:2,4 136:17	71:14,18,23
visualization	wanted 3:24 4:4	97:18 101:18	wholesale 57:17	won 67:19
51:24	21:12 60:5	101:25 104:25	wife 21:15 133:2	wonder 105:23
vital 46:12	61:14,16 64:16	107:22,25	133:10	106:5
voice 41:6	64:22 66:16	108:8 123:15	Wilcox 87:9,10	wondering
voices 88:4	91:7,21 92:1	123:17,17	87:13,16,16,18	116:20
voltage 1:13	93:10,14 106:1	126:20,21,21	87:20,21 136:8	word 53:3 107:7
3:11 14:15,25	114:9 124:15	127:2,6,6,11	wildlife 13:19	words 107:7
15:2 57:22	125:22 131:4	127:16 134:9	19:8 21:16	work 12:8 21:6
58:13 59:22,25	wanting 19:22	we've 49:23	22:22 91:24	28:3 32:11
60:8	55:19	61:23 71:9	92:6,10	33:2 37:14
volts 98:20	wants 19:19	80:14 83:7	William 35:18	42:23 49:20
Volume 1:8	54:1	86:24 96:11	35:20,23 36:1	50:3 55:11
vote 38:17 72:15	war 95:6	118:22 122:2,2	135:12	67:14 69:2
128:12,14	warning 6:12	125:3	Williams 2:3	74:5 75:15
voted 66:8 67:5	Washington	wealth 105:5,7	4:14,14	81:17 82:16

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

85:12,13 86:3 86:9 101:2 106:16 107:21 120:5 122:23 131:23 133:22 worked 21:17 60:3 83:7 92:2 93:11,13 96:25 104:19 106:20 116:10 118:18 121:10 131:22 132:16 133:2,3 worker 44:8 100:18 workers 26:9 70:11,12 80:17 86:8 workers' 63:19 working 18:8 23:1 37:14 58:7 82:21,22 83:10 85:8,17 87:2 106:14 119:19 128:2 works 35:3 43:6 81:25 87:25 107:3 world 18:14 21:14 34:13 35:12 60:7 89:16 102:23 worried 64:6 worse 101:4 worsening 15:3 worth 36:10,10 36:13 worthy 89:3 wouldn't 63:5 Wow 103:2 wrap 115:25 writing 6:16 written 54:6,10 129:25 137:4 wrong 118:11 129:24	X 135:1 136:1 137:1 <hr/> Y Yeah 7:21 21:7 100:14 year 5:13 25:15 29:12 45:12 67:21 95:13 128:10,13 year-long 100:17,17 years 9:7 22:1 22:24 25:21 41:15 42:3 44:17 45:8,9 50:8 52:18 55:17 74:11 80:15 85:11 86:4 89:4 93:12,13 95:11 95:12,14 102:4 102:4 104:8,19 107:19 114:11 118:23 120:24 121:10 126:22 127:11,22 131:22,23,24 132:16 133:2,3 133:3 yellow 126:23 yesterday 29:24 52:8 54:4 123:24 young 42:5 46:17 52:17 youngest 104:14	10,000 101:14 10.16 79:18 100 136:13 103 136:14 108 136:15 11 135:4 110 136:16 113 136:17 114 28:3 115 136:18 119 136:19 11th 66:7 120-plus 102:19 121 136:20 124 136:21 126 136:22 12619 36:5 129 136:23 131 136:24 1350 33:15 138 136:25 13th 59:19 66:10 1400 38:16,17 65:17 14622 11:7 15 25:21 36:17 36:18 128:6 135:5 137:3 1500 45:7 50:8 52:15 86:5 16 93:12 120:24 135:6 17 104:8,19 175 13:20 18 51:22 61:7 120:22 122:22 1800s 124:23 1954 84:22 1972 33:19 1996 20:23 1st 29:12	2.77 9:19 20 30:15 126:22 127:11 135:7 200 2:4,9 37:10 37:10,11 64:1 108:11 200-foot 108:9 2005 38:24 2010 59:15 2012 59:15 65:25 66:2 2013 66:7,10,14 2014 12:10 59:20 66:17,21 67:2 79:15 91:11 2016 1:7 3:3 12:8 67:4 79:15 134:11 202 79:23 2020 25:15 2022 91:14 205 99:19 206-mile 51:20 207 1:24 208 88:25 2095 65:9 2160 65:9 131:15 2194 93:9 2200 77:7 2230 2:9 228 52:2 24 114:11 135:8 24th 79:15 25 13:7 25:18 30:16 62:18 91:15 25,000 21:15 27 135:9 2723 131:14 2755 20:18 28897 32:5 29th 26:16	3-D 51:24 3,000 36:13 3.4 29:12 30 89:4 95:14 107:18 30th 66:14 314 2:14,15 3144 77:1 31st 67:21 91:14 32 135:10 321 28:1 322 24:10 3231 20:17 328 100:10 33 15:23 98:9 135:11 137:3 34 25:14 54:18 137:4 341-5769 2:15 3432 1:24 345 3:13 345kv 1:14 35 37:1 39:5,17 98:9,10,20 116:21 135:12 36 116:21 117:6 360 2:4 38 133:3 135:13
<hr/> X	<hr/> Z zero 112:17 <hr/> 0 0538 138:8,21 <hr/> 1 1 8:24 112:18 10 13:5 19:24 39:7 56:20	<hr/> 2 2 9:5,23 17:18 25:21 2,500 95:23 2.5 29:8	<hr/> 3 3 9:16 17:20	<hr/> 4 4 17:18,23 40 95:14 107:18 131:22,23 132:16 133:3 135:14 40-foot 97:21 400 59:19 85:19 87:4 88:1 89:1 42 132:19 42110 40:22 425 38:7 43 135:15 45 135:16 4520 2:23 460 100:10 460-2535 2:24 4850 2:18

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING - Vol. V 12/8/2016

<p>49 135:17 49.7 79:22 4951 55:5 59:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <hr/> <p>5 18:15 22:1,23 107:4,9 127:13 50 26:2 69:23 74:11 121:10 135:18 500 57:10 54 128:5 135:19 137:4 573 1:25 2:5,10 58 135:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <hr/> <p>6 18:24 6,000 36:11 60 135:21 600 85:18 87:3 600,000 97:9 98:8 62 85:11 63026 2:14 63090 2:19 636 2:19 636-7551 1:25 64 38:18 64111 2:23 65 69:23 135:22 65102 2:5,10 65109 1:24 66 104:22 68 135:23 6901 93:4 6th 65:25 66:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <hr/> <p>7 19:6 135:3 7.2 45:10 70 57:25 700 65:15 69:17 126:15 71 135:24 72 135:25 75 32:12 136:3,4</p>	<p>751-3234 2:5 751-4857 2:10 76 136:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <hr/> <p>8 1:7 19:10 106:24 134:11 80 36:8,15 69:24 96:18 800 65:19 81 36:5 136:6 813 46:3 816 2:24 84 136:7 87 136:8 87.8 79:21 8932 94:25 8th 3:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <hr/> <p>9 13:5 19:18 9.03 79:19 9.11 79:16 9.7 29:6 9:05 134:10 90 12:1 67:11 136:9 900 65:19 91 41:15 911 9:14 92 136:10 93 96:2 94 136:11 980-6403 2:19 99 136:12</p>			
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MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES