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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
STATE OF MISSOURI

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

PUBLIC HEARING

March 7, 2023  
Elks Lodge  
1705 Christopher Road  
Mexico, Missouri 65265

Present on behalf of the Public Service Commission:

Scott Rupp - Chairmain  
Maida Coleman - Commissioner  
Jason Holsman - Commissioner  
Glen Kolkmeyer - Commissioner  
Also present: John Clark - Hearing Judge for hearing

THE COURT REPORTER:

Jenna Petree  
LEXITAS LEGAL  
111 East Broadway  
Columbia, MO 65201  
573-449-0561

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A P P E A R A N C E S

For the Office of Public Service Commission:

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## P R O C E E D I N G S

(Commencement of public hearing at 12:00 p.m.)

JUDGE CLARK: Good afternoon. It's March 7, 2023. The current time is 12:02 p.m. The Missouri Public Service Commission has set aside this time for a local public hearing to give members of the public an opportunity to comment about the application in File No. EA-2023-0017, which is captioned as, "In the Matter of Application Grain Belt Express, LLC for an Amendment with Certificate of Convenience and Necessity Authorizing to Construct, Own, Operate, Control, Manage, and Maintain a High Voltage Direct Current Transmission Line and Associated Converter station. Now the Missouri Public Service Commission regulates utility companies in Missouri to ensure that rates are just and reasonable. The Commission also regulates the quality of service and safety of operation of investor owned utilities.

The commission is made up of five commissioners. Chairman Scott Rupp to my immediate left, Commissioner Maida Coleman, Jason Holsman, and Glen Kolkmeier to my right. The commissioners are appointed by the governor to a fixed term confirmed by the Senators. The commission employs the staff of engineers, accountants, attorneys, financial analysts, and other experts in the field of utility regulation.

1 My name is John Clark. I am not a  
2 commissioner. I am a regulatory judge overseeing this  
3 hearing today. So there are five commissioners, one  
4 commission seat is currently vacant.

5 This is an official hearing of the Missouri  
6 Public Service Commission and the statements and testimony  
7 of witnesses will be recording by the court reporter and  
8 must be given under oath or affirmation. The commission  
9 has not made any decisions in this case, and neither the  
10 commissioners nor myself can answer any questions about the  
11 issue of this case today because the commission has to  
12 remain impartial until all of the evidence is presented at  
13 the conclusive of the evidentiary hearing. The court  
14 reporter over here is transcribing this hearing.

15 At this time, -- well, Chairman, would you  
16 like to make any remarks?

17 CHAIRMAN RUPP: Thank you guys for coming out  
18 today. It is always great to see a very engaged public  
19 whenever we have to deal with these issues. Great  
20 attendance is always welcome during a public hearing. We  
21 encourage you to come up and speak. Just let us know your  
22 thoughts and be candid and it will be transcribed for us to  
23 go back and review later in the case. One thing the judge  
24 did say that always warrants repeating, we are unable to  
25 answer any questions or to respond to any comments that you

1 might make. It would be akin to if you were in a courtroom  
2 during a murder trial and you couldn't just raise your hand  
3 say, "Hey, Judge, what do you think of that evidence?"  
4 They couldn't respond because it would jeopardize the case  
5 and one side would try for a mistrial and things. So even  
6 though we are sitting here, it's not because we are stoic  
7 or obtuse. It's because we literally cannot respond to  
8 anything you say. We are here to listen and take this as  
9 part of evidence for an eventual trial that will happen in  
10 Jefferson City. That being said I know that as Public  
11 Commissioners, we are always pleased to see a great turnout  
12 because this does help us give more information on making  
13 the best decision, you know, for each case that we are  
14 providing. Thank you in advance for your time and  
15 attention here today.

16 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Chairman. At this  
17 time, I'm going to ask the parties to enter their  
18 appearance for the record starting with the Commission  
19 staff.

20 MR. STACEY: Scott Stacey, Staff Counsel, 200  
21 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

22 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Stacey on behalf  
23 of the Office of Public Counsel.

24 MR. POSTON: Mark Poston, attorney for the  
25 Office of Public Counsel.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Poston. On  
2 behalf of Grain Belt Express, LLC.

3 MR. SCHULTE: Andrew Schulte, with the  
4 Polsinelli Law Firm on behalf of Grain Belt Express, LLC.  
5 Also making an appearance today is Sean Pluta, also with  
6 the Polsinelli Law Firm. The court reporter has our  
7 information.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you so much. Where is Mr.  
9 Pluta?

10 MR. PLUTA: I'm in the very back.

11 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Now there is a  
12 number of interveners present.

13 MR. AGATHEN: Thank you, Judge. I'm Paul  
14 Agathen from Washington, Missouri. I also am representing  
15 the Missouri Landowners Alliance, the Eastern Missouri  
16 Landowners Alliance, and Show-Me Concerned Landowners,  
17 Mr. Normal Fischel, Gary and Darrell Riedel, and Dustin  
18 Hudson.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Agathen. Are  
20 there any other interveners present I haven't called?

21 MR. HOLLANDER: Yes, sir. My name is William  
22 W. Hollander and me and my wife are interveners.

23 JUDGE CLARK: Are you an attorney?

24 MR. HOLLANDER: Yes, sir. I didn't wear the  
25 uniform today. My address is 1114 South Laclede Station

1 Road, St. Louis, Missouri, 63119. Are in the process of  
2 moving here.

3 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you. Who did you  
4 say you were representing?

5 MR. HOLLANDER: Myself and my wife, Amy. We  
6 own the land in the path.

7 MS. STEMME: We also have a motion to  
8 intervene, David and Patricia Stemme, of 12601 Road,  
9 Centralia, Missouri.

10 JUDGE CLARK: When you say you have a motion  
11 to intervene, has that been ruled on yet?

12 MS. STEMME: Yes, we are on the list.

13 JUDGE CLARK: I'm sorry, say your name again  
14 for me.

15 MS. STEMME: David and Patricia Stemme.

16 JUDGE CLARK: Got it. Thank you so much.

17 MS. STEMME: Thank you.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Any other counsel for  
19 interveners? Okay. For those who would like to provide  
20 comments today, for the most part there are a few  
21 exceptions because there were a couple who had indicated  
22 they have other places to be, I'm going to call the names  
23 on the sign up sheet in the order they appear. When I call  
24 your name, please come up to the microphone and I will  
25 place you under oath. I will ask you to state and spell

1 your name so that the court reporter gets it. After that,  
2 you can then offer your comments to the commission. There  
3 is a number of people here. I'm now to my fourth sign up  
4 sheet, so that everybody gets an opportunity to speak I'm  
5 going to ask that you keep your comments less than five  
6 minutes. If you start to go long, there is a good chance I  
7 will cut you off. Please keep your comments succinct and  
8 to the point. Now, after you offered your comments, please  
9 remain at the microphone for just a beat or two, the  
10 commissioners may have questions for you. I may have a  
11 question for you or the attorneys may have a question for  
12 you. If any of the attorneys have questions, please raise  
13 your hand and get my attention. Commissioners, feel free  
14 to interrupt me at any time with your questions and I will  
15 pass the microphone over. Okay. I will call the first  
16 witness, forgive me if I butcher your name, Marilyn  
17 O'Bannon.

18 MS. O'BANNON: You pronounced it correctly.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Would you please state and spell  
20 your name for the record.

21 MS. O'BANNON: Marilyn O'Bannon,  
22 M-a-r-i-l-y-n, O-apostrophe, B-a-n-n-o-n.

23 JUDGE CLARK: Please raise your right hand and  
24 be sworn.

25 (Witness sworn.)



1 JUDGE CLARK: And what would you like to tell  
2 the commission?

3 MS. O'BANNON: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman  
4 and members of the Missouri Public Service Commission. My  
5 name is Marilyn O'Bannon from Monroe County. My family and  
6 are landowners on the proposed Grain Belt Express route in  
7 Monroe County and have farms near the Tiger Connector Spur  
8 in Audrain County. In fact one of our farms impacted by  
9 the line in Monroe County has won a category in the  
10 Missouri Farm Growers contest two different times and one  
11 is this year. I oppose the Grain Belt Express project and  
12 their amended application. Phase I of the Grain Belt  
13 Express will place the converter station approximately one  
14 half mile from my home. Grain belt will tell you they have  
15 a large percentage of easements that they have secured  
16 voluntarily. I argue the majority were because of the  
17 threat of imminent domain and potential condemnation  
18 lawsuits. GBE cannot build any wind turbines in Kansas  
19 until the project is approved in Illinois. However, they  
20 are working and even pressuring landowners to sign  
21 easements. One Amish family told me the land agent said if  
22 they didn't sign the easement to Grain Belt, they would go  
23 to court and not get paid anything. It concerns me that  
24 Grain Belt is focused on easements before knowing if they  
25 can even build the project or have the financial

1 capabilities. In the order of the original PCN case, the  
2 PSC granted Grain Belt application with certain conditions.  
3 One condition is that Grain Belt was not permitted to  
4 install transmission on easement property in Missouri until  
5 obtaining commitments for financing of the project in total  
6 to or greater than the total cost to build a entire  
7 multi-state project. In mid-December 2022, Grain Belt  
8 applied for a federal guaranteed loan to from the  
9 Department of Energy to finance the project. During the  
10 EIS public hearing had information stated they anticipated  
11 approval of Tiger Connector by the PSC. In mid-February of  
12 this year, contract land staff starting knocking on  
13 landowners doors offering \$599.99 incentive to obtain  
14 agreements to survey land. The explanation was that Grain  
15 Belt is wanting to expedite the project. The project has  
16 not being approved yet. Merchant transmission, like Grain  
17 Belt Express is an unregulated, voluntary speculative  
18 venture for private profit purpose. Is it not needed for  
19 regional reliability or economics. Merchant can cancel  
20 this project at any time. Also, because Grain Belt rates  
21 are unregulated, there is nothing requiring the merchant to  
22 protect the easements it has acquired in public service.  
23 Granting imminent domain authority to unregulated merchants  
24 for speculative projects that may never be placed in  
25 service violates be taken for public use. I'm going to end

1 my comments at this point. I appreciate the PSC meeting  
2 today. I would respectfully ask that the Missouri PSC deny  
3 this project. It is not for the public good. Thank you.

4 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments.  
5 Ms. O'Bannon, would you come back to the microphone. One  
6 of the commissioners has a question for you.

7 MS. O'BANNON: I'm sorry, you did tell us to  
8 stay, I'm sorry.

9 COMMISSIONER KOLKMEYER: Ms. O'Bannon, did you  
10 testify last night?

11 MS. O'BANNON: Yes, I did. Some of those  
12 notes are the same as last night. I did add a couple of  
13 things that weren't in last night.

14 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you. Ms.  
15 O'Bannon, after listening to your testimony last night I  
16 was left with a question that I did not get to ask. I  
17 wanted to mull over it a little. It was your comment  
18 regarding an Amish family that you feel are or who has  
19 expressed they felt threatened, I guess. Is that something  
20 that you are hearing from multiple or just in specific part  
21 of the pathway that has been proposed?

22 MS. O'BANNON: Well, it's mainly the Amish  
23 community. You have to understand their ability to --  
24 well, first of all with their religious beliefs going to  
25 court would be something that would be against their

1 beliefs. Not understanding maybe the court system or their  
2 rights, I think they felt that when they were threatened  
3 with either you sign this piece of paper or you'll go to  
4 court and get nothing, they did not question.

5 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: So are you saying then  
6 that the people that you know of or this person did indeed  
7 sign the document?

8 MS. O'BANNON: Yes, he did. He said I'm  
9 against the project but, you know, I also don't want to  
10 give up my farm and not receive anything at all for the  
11 easement. He didn't understand that even by going to court  
12 he would be compensated.

13 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you,  
14 Ms. O'Bannon.

15 MS. O'BANNON: I appreciate the question.

16 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, commissioner. Thank  
17 you. Garrett Hawkins.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Would you please state and spell  
19 your name for the record?

20 MR. HAWKINS: Garrett Hawkins, G-a-r-r-e-t-t,  
21 H-a-w-k-i-n-s.

22 (Witness sworn.)

23 JUDGE CLARK: Would you like to tell us?

24 MR. HAWKINS: All right. Commissioners and  
25 staff, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My

1 name is Garrett Hawkins and I serve as the president of the  
2 Missouri Farm Bureau. I'm a fifth generation farmer from  
3 Appleton City, Missouri. Today I'm testifying on behalf of  
4 Missouri Farm Bureau, Missouri Cattlemen Association,  
5 Missouri Corn Growers Association, Missouri Pork  
6 Association, and Missouri Soybean Association. Together we  
7 oppose the Grain Belt Express wind energy project because  
8 of its private out-of-state merchant transmission live  
9 business structure and its use of eminent domain to  
10 condemn private property. Grain Belt's primary purpose is  
11 not to serve Missouri customers but rather drop a portion  
12 of electricity in our state in route to lucrative east  
13 coast markets. Together our organization members firmly  
14 believe in the protection of private property rights and  
15 the negative experiences of many landowners impacted by GBE  
16 was the primary reason we fought for and secured prominent  
17 eminent domain standards for electrical transmission  
18 projects during the 2022 legislative session. We stand  
19 opposed to Grain Belt seeking an amended certificate of  
20 convenience a necessity because we believe the proposed  
21 Tiger Connector is a new project. The PSC should not  
22 simply amend its prior approval for Grain Belt's high  
23 voltage direct current main line. Tiger Connector should  
24 stand on its own and should be scrutinized as the new  
25 project that it clearly is. Over the past decade the debut

1 of the Tiger Connector highlights the fact that it was not  
2 a well-vetted plan and this lasted evolution shows they are  
3 changing course to attempt to find an end-user. We feel  
4 strongly that this new project should be scrutinized as  
5 such. Tiger Connector proposes to take private property to  
6 build a for-profit project controlled by an out of state  
7 company that has no plan or provision to share profits with  
8 the landowner who will house its infrastructure on its  
9 property. This is a major distinction to land and solar  
10 projects of Missouri, which to date have only engaged in  
11 voluntary lease agreements and created ongoing payments and  
12 definitive termination points.

13           The bottom line is landowners are forced to  
14 sell their land and to a buyer not of their choosing to  
15 forever host a market they don't want with no share of the  
16 projects generated. This is a classic use of eminent  
17 domain and the use of governmental authority to coerce  
18 property owners for the benefit of private enterprise. In  
19 Grain Belt's calculations involving its main line grossly  
20 failed to take into account physical and practical ag  
21 equipment to operate within specific distances of towers  
22 and other infrastructure when it claimed that only 9-acres  
23 will be taken out of production.

24           We urge the PSC to deny approval for this  
25 line. If it does not it must require that the impacts to

1 landowners are minimized to co-locations with other  
2 utilities and public right-of-way where feasible along with  
3 appropriate compensation. We also require Grain Belt to  
4 prioritize returning farmland to its full productive  
5 capability after construction. Lastly, Missouri ag  
6 organizations are severely disappointed of the PSC refusal  
7 to set in-person meetings in all three affected counties.  
8 We requested these and Grain Belt Express agreed because we  
9 believe it's critical to allow landowners to deliver  
10 in-person comments to you, the PSC. In the future are, we  
11 hope the PSC will ensure adequate, fair, and thorough  
12 in-person hearings for landowners who bear the full brunt  
13 of projects such as this. Thank you for the opportunity to  
14 testify, not only on behalf of Farm Bureau but the other  
15 organizations.

16 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Just as a point of  
17 clarification listed quite a number of organizations. Some  
18 of those organizations you mentioned don't seem familiar.  
19 Are some of them interveners in this case?

20 MR. HAWKINS: Yes.

21 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments.  
22 Ron Henke. Mr. Henke, would you please -- did I say your  
23 name right?

24 MR. HENKE: Henke.

25 JUDGE CLARK: Would you please state and spell

1 your name for the court reporter?

2 MR. HENKE: Ron Henke, R-o-n, H-e-n-k-e from  
3 Chariton County, Salisbury, Missouri.

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

6 MR. HENKE: What I would like to say is that I  
7 have testified before the Public Service Commission over  
8 the last decade multiple times. I'm asking this Public  
9 Service Commission to deny this application because this is  
10 such an emotional thing for our family. Bear with me.  
11 There is no evidence at all that has been truthfully said  
12 with this whole project. I believe and many other people  
13 believe that this whole project should be denied because  
14 from the original application the only thing that is  
15 possibly true is that they are going to transport DC  
16 current across the state of Missouri. Originally they said  
17 that was going to put a mile pole that takes 9-square feet  
18 to carry three wires carrying 640,000 volts with a possible  
19 electromagnetic field covering one-quarter of a square  
20 mile. The plan has been changed multiple times. Now they  
21 say they are going to put a structure up that's going to  
22 cover 1,600 square feet per structure. Going to dig  
23 immensely deep holes in the property to withstand a  
24 200-foot tower. That is going to create for our property  
25 is going to create obstacles because of underground



1 drainage tiles that are systematically put in place. Then,  
2 that also takes out we will never be able to put up our,  
3 you know, if we propose to put up an irrigation system,  
4 that knocks that out. One of the reasons this makes me so  
5 emotional is the original plan goes right smack through the  
6 center of 320-acres that has two miles of highway frontage,  
7 additional mile of gravel road frontage all within three  
8 miles of Salisbury, Missouri. All of the appraisals that  
9 we have seen and those appraisals are in packets that we  
10 just received this past couple of weeks for the court  
11 appearance that Grain Belt is forcing on this. What it is  
12 getting at along those appraisals, it doesn't take into  
13 effect what those 20 to 30 possible building sites are.  
14 One of those building sites is where my -- emotional  
15 part -- is where my son proposed to his beautiful wife to  
16 build their dream home some day. That has been put on hold  
17 for a full decade or more. They have four beautiful  
18 grandchildren -- or I have four beautiful grandchildren by  
19 that marriage that also is taking building spots away from  
20 future generations and the ability to make a living off of  
21 the 460 acres that is all within those building frontage,  
22 building frontage, highway frontage sites. I can't begin  
23 to say how rude our family have been treated. We have been  
24 told that if we consistently put up opposing this project  
25 that we will be paid less for compensation. Just less than

1 a month ago, a company on another tract of land away from  
2 this line offered us three times the amount that pitiful  
3 offer Grain Belt is offering. I just can't imagine that  
4 people serving the public can put private people ahead of  
5 hard working citizens of this country and not have no  
6 guarantees whatsoever of saving. They say they are going  
7 to save millions of dollars. There is absolutely no proof  
8 that is ever going to take place. Missouri electricity is  
9 very reasonable. I calculated 10 cents per kilowatt. So  
10 is Grain Belt going to offer our utility companies a  
11 quarter of a cent less and multiply that over the entire  
12 usage over the entire state and save Missouri millions of  
13 dollars? I doubt that. The only reason I am here today is  
14 there is a lot of good people through this Tiger Connector  
15 that are landowners that need some help and support. I'm  
16 here to support them. I could go on the rest of the day  
17 but I will stop at that. I'm can't begin to say as much as  
18 the previous three people said, they are much more  
19 professional at it than I am and I'm more emotional but I  
20 do have some facts. We are beside ourselves on what we are  
21 going to do in the future. If for some reason this whole  
22 project from St. Joe to Hannibal could be put on hold  
23 because of the plans that has been changed, it's not the  
24 original plan at all. The electrical magnetic field that  
25 was going to be created by three wires versus the

1 possibility of putting a dozen wires on a 200-foot tower,  
2 is that magnetic field going to extend out a mile? Is it  
3 going to extend out to two miles? There is no research for  
4 environmental safety done on this type of a project. Not  
5 even in the world. There was lines proposed in Ireland and  
6 I have a friend from Ireland that said that Ireland denied  
7 it because of unknown hazards. Those hazards exist here in  
8 Missouri. So I would appreciate if there is some unknown  
9 reason you could deny this entire project, it would benefit  
10 every landowner across this state. I do have friends,  
11 relatives that was threatened that if you did not sign this  
12 easement that we will give you less when we go to court.  
13 Now two of those has already -- are deceased. They went  
14 ahead and signed the easement before their death. I don't  
15 know what else I could say. Is there any questions you all  
16 may have?

17 JUDGE CLARK: I have no questions. Thank you,  
18 Mr. Henke.

19 MR. HENKE: All right. Thank you.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Donna Inglis. I'm again going  
21 to reiterate, please try and be succinct with your  
22 comments.

23 MS. INGLIS: I spell my name D-o-n-n-a,  
24 I-n-g-l-i-s.

25 (Witness sworn.)

1 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

2 MS. INGLIS: Mr. Chairman and members of the  
3 commission, as I just stated my name is Donna Inglis. My  
4 husband Bruce and I own and reside on a farm in Randolph  
5 County that the Grain Belt Express project will be going  
6 through. We also have three pipeline easements across our  
7 property, so I'm very familiar with working with utilities  
8 and with the rights-of-way. Several years ago, two Grain  
9 Belt Express representatives called us and wanted to come  
10 in and visit with us about the project. At that point, the  
11 only things that we had heard were rumors, innuendos, and  
12 snippets. So we wanted to know what the project was all  
13 about. They came in, sat down at our dining room table,  
14 talked about it, showed us information about it. I  
15 listened to what they had to say, I asked some questions  
16 and then my husband said, "Do you all expect us to sign  
17 this easement today?" Imagine our surprise when they said,  
18 "Well you, can if you really want to, but we would  
19 recommend that you take a few days to talk it over with  
20 each other." So we decided at that point to enter into  
21 negotiations with this company. We spent a few days  
22 cussing and discussing between ourselves what we thought  
23 would be a fair amount of money and I called them back.  
24 Well, it may come as a surprise to some of your  
25 commissioners but I'm old and I'm also way legally blind.

1 You need to understand that I love to negotiate and I do it  
2 well. They came in and sat down at our dining room table  
3 again and we came to an equitable settlement. We did sign  
4 the easement. What I think is very important for you to  
5 understand today that normally when we talk to -- initially  
6 talk to the representatives, they were both professional  
7 and respectful to us. We all know sometimes, once you sign  
8 the name they don't want to have anything to do with you  
9 anymore. Well, that's been about ten years ago. Over the  
10 past ten years, every time I have contacted an Invenergy  
11 employee, and I have talked to several over the years, they  
12 have been easy to work with without exception. They have  
13 addressed my concerns as a landowner. I know there is a  
14 lot of emotions involved here today. My views are  
15 different than other people and my experiences apparently  
16 are different. It's important, and I want you to know,  
17 that my husband and I strongly support the Tiger Connector.  
18 We are members of a rural electric co-op and believe that  
19 without a doubt this interconnection will bring cheaper,  
20 cleaner, and more reliable power to our Show-Me State. You  
21 have an opportunity you don't often have and that's to  
22 approve a project that is a win, win, win; cheaper,  
23 cleaner, and more reliable. In closing, I want to take off  
24 my prepared or thought of remarks and address the Amish  
25 community. I know and I believe what she said. You need

1 to hear the view from the other side. I have several Amish  
2 friends in that Amish community. Several of who have  
3 signed an easement with Grain Belt Express. Were they  
4 excited about it, I'm not going to lie to you and tell you  
5 they were. Of course they weren't. Were they fearful?  
6 Were they afraid? Did they feel intimidated? My friends  
7 never said anything about that. So there is always two  
8 views of the same issue. I want to thank you for your time  
9 today and I hope that you will approve the Tiger Connector.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Inglis. Rodney  
11 Vance. Mr. Vance, would you please state and spell your  
12 name for the record.

13 MR. VANCE: R-o-d-n-e-y, V-a-n-c-e.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 JUDGE CLARK: What would you like to tell us?

16 MR. VANCE: I'm a landowner in Audrain County  
17 and the Tiger Connector proposal is to come through my farm  
18 and like Ms. Inglis. I have three pipelines and one power  
19 line already coming through it to devalue the price of the  
20 farm. One more will only increase that devaluation. I  
21 don't -- all that I have heard or know about everything, I  
22 don't see that it is a necessary line. Green energy could  
23 be a great thing in the future but right now I don't think  
24 they have all of the technology they need. They sure have  
25 a lot of scammers in the green energy company business.

1 I'm not saying this is a scam but it gives me cause to  
2 think that way some times. I was bypassed for the main  
3 line and was thankful for that. Now I find out that they  
4 want to get this line put in to go through my place to  
5 connect up with the grid. I don't know why they have come  
6 halfway across the state before they decided to go another  
7 40-miles out of their way to hook up to the grid when I'm  
8 sure there is stations a lot closer to the border that have  
9 a grid connections. That's about all I have to say. Thank  
10 you.

11 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Vance. Joe  
12 Vance. Would you please state and spell your name for the  
13 record?

14 MR. VANCE: Joe Vance, J-o-e, V-a-n-c-e.  
15 (Witness sworn.)

16 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

17 MR. VANCE: When we began, Grain Belt  
18 expressed publicity has been loaded with half truths and  
19 false information. After a decade of activity, their  
20 project is still rejected by states around us. They still  
21 have no electricity to distribute. No lines to distribute  
22 electricity with. No real definite customers to buy  
23 electricity from. In recent months, GBE has lost at least  
24 one court case because of multiple improper actions trying  
25 to get an easement. Our existing electric systems say we

1 don't need them. Other states around us don't want them.  
2 You wouldn't want them in your backyard or running through  
3 your businesses and we don't either. Your job is to  
4 protect the well-being of Missouri citizens. We ask you to  
5 reject this proposed permit and revoke any other permits  
6 they currently have in Missouri. Thank you for your  
7 consideration.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Vance. Mitchell  
9 Guess. Would you please state and spell your name for the  
10 record?

11 MR. GUESS: Mitchell Guess, M-i-t-c-h-e-l-l,  
12 G-u-e-s-s.

13 (Witness sworn.)

14 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

15 MR. GUESS: Good afternoon, commissioners and  
16 staff. I'm here on behalf of PAR Electric Contractors. We  
17 are national leader in all aspects of outside electric  
18 construction. For more than 67 years our reputation as a  
19 solutions provider is consistently applied to all our  
20 service offerings. We offer a full range service offering  
21 transmission, substation, distribution, telecom, start-up  
22 maintenance, energize services, EPC, and emergency storm  
23 restoration. We are a national company but we are local.  
24 We are based in Kansas City, Missouri. We have offices in  
25 St. Louis as well. We employ more than a 1,000 employees



1 across the U.S. and more than 400 in the state of Missouri.  
2 We are a proud member of the IBW. Over 9 percent of our  
3 workforce is a union constructed. We have been a key part  
4 of Grain Belt Express since 2016. We are prepared to do  
5 EPC engineering material and construction based in our  
6 Kansas City, Missouri office. It's expected that over  
7 1,500 high quality construction jobs will be brought to  
8 Missouri during the construction. We are committed to  
9 Missouri and this innovative process project. We have made  
10 significant can't investment of time, resources, and money  
11 preparing the plan for engineering procurement and  
12 construction. Our execution plan includes strengthening  
13 local supply chains through local firms, including disabled  
14 veteran owned businesses and minority and women owned  
15 business. We encourage you to approve the amendment to the  
16 Grain Belt Express certificate of convenience and necessity  
17 enabling the project to deliver more power to Missouri with  
18 the Tiger Connector pass the alignment of 20 percent and  
19 phasing the project out to gets these benefits sooner.  
20 Thank you.

21 JUDGE CLARK: What's the name of your company?

22 MR. GUESS: PAR Electrical Contractors, LLC.

23 JUDGE CLARK: Would you spell that please?

24 MR. GUESS: PAR, P-a-r, Electrical

25 Contractors.

1 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Thank you for your  
2 comments. Melinda Hudson. Ms. Hudson, would please state  
3 and spell your name for the record?

4 MS. HUDSON: Melinda Hudson, M-e-l-i-n-d-a,  
5 H-u-d-s-o-n.

6 (Witness sworn.)

7 JUDGE CLARK: What would you like to tell us  
8 today?

9 MS. HUDSON: First of all, hello. I just want  
10 to state that I am not a public speaker but ever since my  
11 son got his letter, I feel like my voice has to be heard.  
12 I'm 100 percent against the Tiger Connector. Just like  
13 Mr. Henke, I get very emotional and very upset. I want to  
14 thank everyone who came. Sorry it wasn't held in the  
15 evening for the majority of people I know that were against  
16 this project can't be here because they have to work to  
17 make ends meet. As a show of hands, all persons here from  
18 Missouri that oppose the transmission line, please raise  
19 your hand if you oppose it. Great thanks. I'm against the  
20 line for many reasons. Is there a need for this? No, I  
21 don't really think there is. If there was, it would have  
22 been in the original proposal years ago. Does the Tiger  
23 have the contracted paying customers? I don't think they  
24 have enough to make it feasible and sustainable. My first  
25 and personal reason for being against this, I'm extremely

1 concerned about the risk for my two grandchildren that live  
2 within mere yards of this line. I have got a 14-month-old  
3 and an eight-year-old, are there health risks? Well, the  
4 World Health Organization says there is for anyone under 12  
5 that there is risk of cancer. I don't think any of you all  
6 sitting up there would want any of your loved ones, whether  
7 they are little guys or grandmother, to be at risk for  
8 cancer because of the transmission line that's not needed.  
9 What risks are there to 65 head of our cattle that will be  
10 grazing everyday under these lines? What about eagles,  
11 deers, my granddaughter's dearly loved 50 chickens that she  
12 raised from babies. The wonderful transmission line going  
13 through my son's farm and we live two farms over or there  
14 is one farm between us. This is 160 acres right here, this  
15 L shape. This black line is the transmission line. This  
16 little orange line is where they are building their home.  
17 Now plans have been stopped because again, my grandchildren  
18 are going to be mere yards and my son and daughter-in-law.  
19 It physically and mentally makes me ill. Every large farm  
20 organization that I'm aware of is against this as Garrett  
21 Hawkins stated earlier. Again, there is not a need for  
22 this. If there truly was a need for it, I would give my  
23 son part of my land so he could build his dream home and he  
24 could still have his farm over there if there was a need.  
25 There is not or they haven't proved to me there is. When

1 making your decision, I hope you remember these pictures.  
2 Not only my kids, there is many other people out here that  
3 have children and grandchildren that they love that they  
4 don't want to be underneath it either. I hope each of your  
5 use your common sense, which I know all of you have it.  
6 Our generation does. You're younger than me, but we all  
7 have it. I also hope that none of you have been promised a  
8 job by GBE. That you deny the project and protect the  
9 hardworking taxpaying citizens of Missouri. Your kids and  
10 grandkids will always have a need for food. This useless  
11 waste of federal subsidized money for a private  
12 out-of-state company is ruining this once free nation. If  
13 the Tiger Connector is so important and needed, it should  
14 have been in the initial proposal. Thanks for listening  
15 from the bottom of my heart. Thanks in advance for making  
16 the correct decision. I appreciate your time.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Hudson. Just to  
18 clarify for the record, when you stated or asked a number  
19 of people to raise their hand who were opposed. For the  
20 record, a number of people raised their hands.

21 MS. HUDSON: I would say the majority, yes,  
22 sir.

23 JUDGE CLARK: To also clarify for the court  
24 reporter, the exhibits, demonstrative exhibit were a  
25 picture of your grandchildren and a picture of your son's

1 farm; is that correct?

2 MS. HUDSON: That is correct.

3 JUDGE CLARK: I have no questions for you.  
4 Thank you very much. Pat Stemme. You stated earlier that  
5 you were an intervener as well?

6 MS. STEMME: I am, for my husband and I.

7 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Go ahead and make your  
8 comments.

9 (Witness sworn.)

10 MS. STEMME: First off, thank you for your  
11 time. My husband and I would like to share with the  
12 commission how the high power transmission lines will  
13 affect our farming agricultural community as a whole. We  
14 are a 4th generation that generates thousands of bushels of  
15 corn, soybeans, and wheat a year. We are not the only  
16 operation by far. Most of the farm operations today are  
17 very large. We joined the Bio Processing, LLC in Ladonia,  
18 Missouri, an ethanol plant in 2006. A lot of our corn goes  
19 into reducing ethanol and DDG, which are renewable  
20 energies. Ethanol is oxinate that when added to salt  
21 octane petroleum allows gas to burn cleaner. Ethanol is  
22 used as an octane to fuel over 90 percent of the gas in the  
23 United States. We have been very successful for 17 years  
24 with this technology. We are also members of the Bio Fuel,  
25 LLC located here in Mexico, Missouri. A lot of our

1 soybeans go to produce this amazing renewable fuel called  
2 bio diesel, which is an advanced product that has been  
3 improving our environment for over a decade. Bio diesel is  
4 domestically produced, clean burning, renewable substitute  
5 for petroleum diesel. Using biodiesel as a vehicle fuel  
6 increases the energy security, improves air quality, and  
7 the environment and provides safety benefits. So my  
8 question would be how can one company that is claiming to  
9 provide renewable energy come in and take land from another  
10 company that is already successfully producing renewable  
11 energies that work. That does not make sense to us. We  
12 are saving Missourians across the state money while  
13 providing more environmentally friendly energy. Another  
14 point we would like to share is the fact that Monroe,  
15 Audrian, and callaway County are part of the Midwest Corn  
16 Belt. Our farm is located in Audrain County. Audrain  
17 County is the No. 1 producer of soybean in the state. Most  
18 of our grain goes to fuel and livestock feed which ends up  
19 on your table and in your vehicle. During the summer  
20 months because of the growing crops, we are the envy of  
21 other countries around the world because we produce more  
22 photosynthesis than anywhere else in the world. Shouldn't  
23 the commissioners be committed to protecting this  
24 advantageous phenomenon? These high towers will be  
25 destroying the very thing we are trying to save, which is

1 our plant. A cleaner, safer, environment for all of us to  
2 live in as well as the wildlife. Having the high tower on  
3 our cropland will cause some very detrimental to the land.  
4 It's called soil compaction. Soil compaction is a  
5 condition that every farm manager fights. They have to  
6 watch how many times they drive over the tilled land. Many  
7 farm operations use large tracts instead of typical tractor  
8 tires. The tracts help reduce the compaction because it  
9 transfers the weight over a broader area. Why is  
10 compaction so bad? It's because the roots of the plant  
11 can't go deep into the ground and it stunts the plants,  
12 which results in poor yields. In many cases it takes years  
13 to correct. So yields affected for an indetermined amount  
14 of time. Invenergy will be compacting our soils in order  
15 to put up the towers and maintain them. Their equipment  
16 may be even heavier than what the farmer uses so we could  
17 be looking at lower yields on part of our land. With high  
18 towers we won't be able to perform our usual aerial  
19 spraying application of insecticides and herbicide on our  
20 plants. We use drones, helicopters, and small planes. Our  
21 sprayer booms measure 120 feet across, so it will be much  
22 more difficult to work around the towers. What if we want  
23 to add irrigation? These towers will prevent us from even  
24 considering that option. As we look at the changes in the  
25 size of farm equipment in the last 20 years, it's all

1 gotten bigger, a lot bigger. We don't know what's in the  
2 future. We don't want to be limited or hindered because of  
3 these towers crossing our farmland. Obviously I am against  
4 this project.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Stemme. I have  
6 no questions. Michael Henry Martin. Will you please state  
7 and spell your name for the record?

8 MR. MARTIN: My name is Michael Henry Martin,  
9 M-i-c-h-a-e-l, H-e-n-r-y, M-a-r-t-i-n.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

12 MR. MARTIN: Thank you first off for having me  
13 in here today. Having everybody as well. I don't want to  
14 take up too much of your time. I look around and I see a  
15 lot of heartbroken people and a lot of smart people here.  
16 Harder working and smarter than I am. I will try be too  
17 loud. Now, I'm not from here. I live in Columbia. I  
18 think that's important because these people are going to be  
19 the people that are affected the most, much more than I  
20 will be but this is my two cents. I have lived here,  
21 Kansas, Alabama, overseas and the one thing that I see or  
22 that I don't see enough of is good neighbors. People that  
23 care about the people around them and people that want the  
24 best for their country at large. I don't have an informed  
25 opinion on what I think you should or should not do. I



1 just hope that you do keep in mind the needs of the people  
2 here and the needs of the people in our country. When it  
3 comes to energy, it's been said today that you might not  
4 tend to do this project and I tend to agree. We might not  
5 need to but I personally have seen a lot of hardships that  
6 result from options other than renewable energy that like  
7 what are seeing here. I know people who have died in the  
8 oil industry in Alabama. I have seen a lot of hardships  
9 with the coal industry; health, sadness. On the flip side  
10 of that, I also am a Native American and I understand there  
11 is a lot of frustration when someone comes in and take what  
12 is yours and take it for themselves. These are really hard  
13 things to deal with and things that last for generations.  
14 So I can understand the other side of the angle. I will  
15 conclude with just this, I don't have an informed decision.  
16 The people here are smart and know what's best for them. I  
17 do ask that you do what's best for the people of Missouri  
18 and the people of the United States. Thank you.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments.  
20 Please remember if you have a phone, please place it on  
21 silent or vibrate. Leslie Meyer.

22 MS. MEYER: Hello, it's actually Meyer.

23 JUDGE CLARK: I apologize. I ask that you  
24 please state and spell your name for the record.

25 MS. MEYER: It's okay. It happens all the

1 time. Leslie, L-e-s-l-i-e, Meyer, M-e-y-e-r.

2 (Witness sworn.)

3 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

4 MS. MEYER: Hello. I am an Associate  
5 Commissioner in Audrain County. I first heard about the  
6 Tiger Connector project late last summer when Jason Shaw  
7 with Inver Energy popped into our office. At that time  
8 Inver Energy or Grain Belt Express had filed the Tiger  
9 Connector as an amendment to the initial Grain Belt Express  
10 line and was waiting on a PSC ruling. We were told it was  
11 a done deal. I hope and I pray that it wasn't. We are  
12 here today to help persuade you to make a decision and the  
13 decision hasn't already been made. I was raised by two  
14 people who taught me that there is no greater fraud than a  
15 broken word or lie. When I took this position as a county  
16 commissioner, I promised I would stand for the residents of  
17 Audrain County and advocate for them to the best of my  
18 ability. This is me living you up to that philosophy and  
19 not breaking my word. I'm not going to sit up here and  
20 tell you that I know a darn thing about electrical power or  
21 this project or anything about lines or megawatts or  
22 anything like that. I know about agriculture. I know  
23 about cattle. I can tell you how to treat a steer with  
24 listeria. I can tell you why you don't buy a heifer that  
25 the sale barn has written "witch" across its forehead.

1 Here is what I do know about this project, as a commission  
2 we offered to help representatives with Inver Energy to  
3 meet with the landowners who are affected by this proposed  
4 Tiger Connector project on farms to answer questions to  
5 help ease their fears and to open a dialogue between the  
6 two groups. The landowners wholeheartedly and Invenergy  
7 refused. In some cases, the project cuts entire plots of  
8 land in half. Most of that is farm ground. We asked Inver  
9 Energy if they would consider following the roadways to  
10 keep from doing that to our farmers especially, because I  
11 don't know about you but if you try driving and maneuvering  
12 large farm equipment, sometimes having those lines in the  
13 middle of your best fields, it does not work that well.  
14 Again, the answer was no. That conversation ended very  
15 quickly. Alternative solutions were not even given.  
16 Again, it was a done deal. Invenergy has gone on record  
17 with local media, like the Mexico Ledger last summer and  
18 said that they do not have any Missouri customers for this  
19 line and spur. So Missouri landowners have to suffer and  
20 provide power to those in other states. So how is this for  
21 the greater good for Missouri and Missouri landowners?  
22 Again, is it really okay to allow the federal  
23 administration buzz words of "green energy" to take away  
24 the property rights of landowners in the state for private  
25 property for private gain. Missouri electrical grid is

1 fine. Our power is strong and dependable. We do not  
2 experience brown outs. Our rates are reasonable. Audrain  
3 County has several solar and wind projects that are  
4 currently working with property owners and not utilizing  
5 this extreme clause or threat to landowners for imminent  
6 domain. They are working with them, not against them. We  
7 have listened to our county residents who live along the  
8 proposed route. They do not want the Tiger Connector.  
9 They also do not have faith in Invenergy or business  
10 practices, nor do they want imminent domain being used to  
11 threaten them into signing these easements. The Audrain  
12 County Commission supports its residents. Please listen as  
13 they have spoken and all of us are going on record as  
14 saying no to the Tiger Connector. Thank you.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments. I  
16 have no questions. Allan Winders.

17 MR. WINDERS: A-l-l-a-n, W-i-n-d-e-r-s.

18 (Witness sworn.)

19 JUDGE CLARK: What would you like to tell the  
20 commissioners?

21 MR. WINDERS: First of all, welcome to Audrain  
22 County. I have the great honor of being the presiding  
23 commissioner here and we appreciate that your commission is  
24 here. Welcome to all of you who have come to voice your  
25 opinion. We appreciate very much if you're here. Welcome

1 even if you're not from Audrain County. We are glad that  
2 you are here although we agree that there should have been  
3 a hearing in each of the three counties. Welcome and  
4 congratulations to Grain Belt Express, LLC. You, as an  
5 elected official I know how difficult it is to get a room  
6 full of people to agree on anything. I think by a show of  
7 hands in a room full of people agree that you should not  
8 have eminent domain to do this project. As Commissioner  
9 Meyers, we are in opposition for the project. My personal  
10 reason for being in opposition is due to almost exclusively  
11 the use of eminent domain in this case. Is it not an arms  
12 length negotiation when one party this -- when both parties  
13 know the outcome. I will be brief and simply ask the PSC  
14 to use the authority to protect our landowners and not to  
15 assist a company on stepping on their private property  
16 rights. Thank you. I will be happy to answer any  
17 questions.

18 JUDGE CLARK: I have no questions. Thank you  
19 very much. Tracy Graham.

20 MS. GRAHAM: Tracy, T-r-a-c-y, R, Graham,  
21 G-r-a-h-a-m.

22 (Witness sworn.)

23 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

24 MS. GRAHAM: Again, thank you gentlemen and  
25 thank you commission for being here and staff. I will be

1 as brief as the other three commissioners. My stance is  
2 that it is not fair for Audrain County citizens who we  
3 respect the property rights and always that they can be  
4 told and what to do with imminent domain. That is just not  
5 appropriate for our citizens whether they are farmers,  
6 business people, or anybody else. The other thing that  
7 really bothers me is it's going to have a huge impact on  
8 the farming and ag industry. It's going to take production  
9 land out of production to be able to put these towers up.  
10 Again, you've already heard from people how difficult it is  
11 to use their equipment around those fields with those big  
12 towers and equipment. The other last thing I will mention  
13 is that I have not seen any data that has direct or  
14 positive impact on services or electricity being provided  
15 to the citizens of Audrain County. It might be shipped  
16 down to Columbia, Boone County, or places further south. I  
17 see nothing that will help any of the electrical grid in  
18 Audrain County that I'm aware of. That's all I have and I  
19 would take any questions.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. I have no questions.  
21 GB Kaiser.

22 MR. KAISER: GB Kaiser, G, as in girl, B as in  
23 boy, Kaiser, K-a-i-s-e-r.

24 JUDGE CLARK: I'm sorry. Can you please state  
25 and spell your name for the record?

1 MR. KAISER: G as in --

2 JUDGE CLARK: I'm sorry. You just did that.  
3 I apologize.

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 MR. KAISER: I farm in Audrain County. This  
6 proposed line goes through three of our farms. We -- there  
7 is one particular farm there is 300 tillable acres. I  
8 don't need a power line to farm around. The other two are  
9 the same way. Also it seems to me that whenever one of  
10 these projects come about, we can't seem to get the right  
11 people to listen to us. Everybody -- either we haven't got  
12 the enough money or we haven't got enough guns or something  
13 for anybody to pay attention to us. It is extremely  
14 important that you keep in mind some day you're going to  
15 need agriculture production to produce the food for this  
16 country. We can't continue to put it under highways, put  
17 it under poles, taking good agriculture production land out  
18 of service. It doesn't work. It also kind of looks to me  
19 this is one of them deals like Russia and Putin. He wants  
20 Ukraine, he's going to take it. That's kind of what Grain  
21 Belt Express, LLC has tried to do. They are just going to  
22 take it. It does not seem like this is a fair way of doing  
23 business. I know most of these people that worked all  
24 their life to make what they have got. We don't need some  
25 individual trying to take what we spent a lifetime paying

1 for, paying taxes on for their own personal gain because we  
2 are not really going to gain very much of anything. I just  
3 come back from New Mexico. I saw a lot of wind towers. I  
4 saw a lot of wind towers that weren't working. Rust  
5 running down the poles. The seals, the shaft, something in  
6 that windmill had quit. They weren't repaired. It doesn't  
7 appear to me that is an official way to make anything work.  
8 If it is not reliable, then we need to figure out some  
9 other way to do this. There has to be another way of  
10 generating energy that is more reliable and efficient  
11 because when the green money dries up, these guys are all  
12 going away and America has been fleeced again. That is all  
13 I have got to say.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Kaiser. Robert  
15 Wayne Wilcox.

16 MR. WILCOX: I'm Robert Wayne Wilcox,  
17 R-o-b-e-r-t, W-a-y-n-e, W-i-l-c-o-x.

18 (Witness sworn.)

19 MR. WILCOX: Please go ahead.

20 MR. WILCOX: Well, I'm one of the rare farmers  
21 here today that is in favor of this project. I have been  
22 in favor of it since it came to my recollection, they came  
23 before the Randolph County commissioner and I'm a retired  
24 county commissioner. One of the first things that we did  
25 and our presider at that point in time was an investigative



1 reporter, retired, and so she set about looking at the high  
2 voltage DC lines around the United States. Eventually, I  
3 went to Minnesota to see one of these high voltage DC lines  
4 and to interview the folks that operated that line. They  
5 have kept meticulous records about complaints of people  
6 that lived around those lines and any health problems.  
7 There was nothing that had ever taken place. Now, that was  
8 not a 4,000-volt, but it was a 2,500 high voltage line and  
9 it is still in operation today. We visited with farmers,  
10 land owners there and folks that have large farming  
11 operations. They own they own airplanes. They did their  
12 own spraying. They were able to apply under the lines  
13 because they were high enough and that's how they sprayed  
14 and operated underneath those. I'm a Century Farm Owner.  
15 I have like several of the other folks, I have three  
16 pipelines and one high voltage DC/AC line going across my  
17 farm. This high voltage DC line will cross that high  
18 voltage AC line and that was one of the things that I  
19 wanted to see was I had been told there would be a big  
20 fireball when they were both energized. I officially stood  
21 right where the high voltage DC line and the AC line  
22 crossed and nothing was happening. There was more than one  
23 of us there. Yes, I also have supported Missouri Farm  
24 Bureau position on imminent domain reform and I am a past  
25 County Farm Bureau president and currently sitting on the

1 Randolph County Farm Bureau board. I also have a been a  
2 director of a rural electric cooperative for 33 years so I  
3 get input monthly on needs of electricity so on and so  
4 forth. I do a lot of reading about the need for energy.  
5 The big thing is you have to have reliable dispatchable  
6 power if not, you have to have large cross country  
7 transmission lines whether they be DC or AC. One of the  
8 key things on this DC line can the power can either way.  
9 Yes, it can is what I have been informed by the Invenergy  
10 folks. I attended the early hearing and I asked them not  
11 to continue to cut because they were showing up a path  
12 across the country and creating another scar. I asked not  
13 to do that. Well, they heard that and the next time they  
14 brought a path back to Randolph County, they were now  
15 following these pipelines in a lot of cases across the  
16 state. So we have cut down on the amount of scars that we  
17 were having to the United States. I was a helicopter pilot  
18 with the Army National Guard for years. I have flown all  
19 over the United States and you can see those scars. I  
20 appreciate that. I'm an avid quail hunter. I hunt turkey  
21 on my property. In some cases, the deer like that open  
22 spots and that makes good places for those folks to hunt.  
23 I have signed my easement. I have been able to work with  
24 the folks and I am a well-known name and I have not been  
25 approached by any of the folks in the Amish community. I

1 have friends out there that have complained to me about any  
2 problems there. I do not deny what Ms. O'Bannon said  
3 because she has been a very staunch a opponent to this and  
4 we have always agreed to disagree on the project. I  
5 definitely --

6 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Wilcox, I'm going to ask you  
7 to wind it up just because you're going on four or five  
8 minutes.

9 MR. WILCOX: Well, as I stated I'm in favor of  
10 the project because I supported it from day one. Anybody  
11 have any questions?

12 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much for your  
13 comments. A system my. Dave Stemme, Centralia, Missouri.  
14 My wife and I farm here in Audrain County.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Are you related to or part of  
16 the parties that would include Patricia Stemme?

17 MR. STEMME: Yes, she is my wife.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead.

19 MR. STEMME: We farm here in Audrain, Boone,  
20 Randolph and Callaway County and this power line is going  
21 to affect several of our farms and we oppose it because I'm  
22 not in favor of green anything. I think at this point in  
23 time it's very expensive. I think its utility rates  
24 tremendously. It's going to make poor folks poorer and  
25 going to make some really rich folks richer. I am opposed

1 to that if you have any questions.

2 JUDGE CLARK: No question. Thank you for your  
3 comments. Patty McBride.

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 MS. MCBRIDE: My husband Larry and I own land  
6 that this proposed line, the proposed Tiger Connector, is  
7 wanting to cross. I'm not going to go into all of the  
8 stuff I had all of that stuff written out. Our biggest  
9 concern is he mentioned quail. We have a lot of quail  
10 hunters in our family too that haven't been able to quail  
11 hunt. Just this past fall, we saw a cub two or three times  
12 of quail, you know, that was huge. These guys come  
13 anywhere they are wanting to put it through in a fence row,  
14 that's where the quail like to hang out. Destroy the cub  
15 of quail that we just found. So we -- I'm sure there is  
16 other wildlife, but that specifically, the one where we  
17 live, that will be impacted. We also have grandchildren.  
18 They have talked about the impact of these huge power lines  
19 to young kids. They are at our house at least once a week.  
20 We don't want to expose them any more than we have to all  
21 of this stuff. Property, the value of our property, what's  
22 going to happen then? Right know, land is high. Go  
23 through and put that power line through there, it's going  
24 to decrease the value of our land and all of the connecting  
25 lands where we live. Plus, we have to pay property tax

1 where we can no longer utilize the land. So we are paying  
2 the property tax that somebody else is making money on.  
3 That's not fair. We have spent a lifetime trying to get --  
4 trying to pay off that land and get it into -- to be  
5 environmentally conscious of what -- of the property and  
6 make a productive land. Then we come to maintenance of it.  
7 We have another power line that goes through, AC/DC don't  
8 know what it is, it's a line. They come through  
9 periodically and check poles and whatnot. A few years ago  
10 they came through and put new poles in. Granted, these are  
11 wood. I'm assuming there will be still with maintenance on  
12 whatever it is Grain Belt is wanting to put up. So they  
13 came in and put new poles in. It was wet at that time,  
14 tore the pasture up. It was our best pasture. Had that  
15 pasture all tore up. Did their work. They were there, I  
16 don't know, couple of weeks in and out. Did not correct  
17 what they had destroyed. So we were left with ruts in the  
18 pasture. I think it's been about ten years because in fact  
19 they were just in there last week again doing something.  
20 You can still see ruts where they were there putting those  
21 new poles in. We were stuck with that, another one of  
22 those eye blemishes, and having to correct what they tore  
23 up again. You know, I don't know why they can't use, I  
24 think Marilyn O'Bannon mentioned earlier about using  
25 right-of-ways and they said no. Why? If they are going to

1 push back on that, I would think there needs to be a good  
2 reason to do that. Those right-of-ways are there for a  
3 reason. There is already electrical lines. Why can't they  
4 use that? How would you feel if this was going on your  
5 land? If this was going to be a half mile from your house  
6 or a quarter-mile from your house? How would you feel if  
7 you had a bunch of strangers come in and driving across the  
8 edge of property, tearing up your land? These strangers  
9 are out there with your kids in the backyard. You know,  
10 how would you feel if it was your property? I would like  
11 for you to think about that. So obviously I'm opposed to  
12 this as well.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments.  
14 I'm sorry, I'm having a bit of a problem reading the next  
15 name, Charles Greg Crawford.

16 MR. CRAWFORD: I'm sorry, my writing is not  
17 very good. I'm Charles Greg Crawford, C-h-a-r-l-e-s,  
18 G-r-e-g, C-r-a-w-f-o-r-d.

19 (Witness sworn.)

20 JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead.

21 MR. CRAWFORD: Our farm was identified as one  
22 of the potential paths for Tiger Connector but ultimately  
23 they chose the path through our neighbor's farm. I'm  
24 opposed to the Grain Belt and Tiger Connector application.  
25 Our farm has been -- our family has been farming for nearly

1 a 100 years. Plus we have the Thomas Hill Transmission  
2 Line that runs across one of our farms, which is much  
3 smaller and far less environmentally intrusive than the  
4 proposed Grain Belt and Tiger Connector transmission lines.  
5 So I can speak firsthand experience the construction  
6 process causes extreme compaction to the soil. It takes  
7 years to restore, which results in reduction in yields,  
8 lower reduction and economic loss. The additional fuel and  
9 labor cost to maneuver around these bases adds up because  
10 they are there forever. In fact, we eventually stopped row  
11 cropping a section of it and put it into pasture. We have  
12 been considering adding to our irrigated acres, but these  
13 transmission lines make it more costly and difficult to  
14 justify. The use of airplanes and helicopters to top dress  
15 fertilizer, insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides are  
16 essential for farming today. The gentleman said they fly  
17 under these transmission lines, the ones we have are not  
18 flying underneath the transmission lines. The reason they  
19 don't fly is because of safety concerns for the planes.  
20 The transmission lines with their large bases impact the  
21 value of our farms because it's more costly to build  
22 irrigation methods and it takes land out of production.  
23 Grain Belt time after time has failed to be truthful. It's  
24 my understanding Grain Belt informed the PSC, you guys,  
25 when they initially filed the application for imminent

1 domain that they had all of their finances in place. If  
2 that's the case, then why are they seeking 80 percent of  
3 the total cost of the project loan from the Department of  
4 Energy? We were told by Invenergy representatives there  
5 that if they do not complete this project without the loan.  
6 So therefore it looks like the original Grain Belt  
7 application should have been denied. Definitely if they  
8 don't have the finances now, how do they have it for the  
9 Tiger Connector? Why wasn't Grain Belt upfront with the  
10 PSC about their intention with this proposed Tiger  
11 Connector? Was it their intent to get imminent domain and  
12 then come back later? Is that a possibility? Imminent  
13 domain should have never been given to a private  
14 out-of-state company. I attended the Callaway Tiger  
15 Connector public meetings. During those meetings, we asked  
16 multiple representatives if there was -- if they intended  
17 to utilize the Tiger Connector to transmit or purchase  
18 local solar. They emphatically all said absolutely not,  
19 which was another lie because I have a copy of a lease  
20 agreement from Inver Energy Williamsburg area in Callaway  
21 County that they are trying to create their own solar  
22 farms. Grain Belt claims significant cost savings to  
23 Missouri consumers but based on their track record, how can  
24 we believe what they say. I implore the PSC to obtain  
25 verifiable evidence that supports these alleged claims.



1 Germany has placed their transmission lines underground to  
2 minimize environmental impacts, which is much less  
3 intrusive. So why not bury the lines and utilize existing  
4 right-of-ways along the road and highways, which is far  
5 more less impact to the farmers, farming, and everyday  
6 citizens, which would solve a lot of the problems and  
7 concerns. I don't know how a company qualifies when they  
8 have no paying customers or sustainable revenue sources.  
9 The citizens should be assured these concerns are  
10 eliminated and there is no longterm harmful effects due to  
11 all of the uncertainty and Invenergy representation of  
12 failing to be honest. I would strongly recommend denying  
13 Tiger Connector application. Thank you for giving me the  
14 time to share my story.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comment.  
16 Dustin Hudson.

17 MR. HUDSON: D-u-s-t-i-n, Hudson, common  
18 spelling, H-u-d-s-o-n.

19 (Witness sworn.)

20 JUDGE CLARK: What would you like to tell the  
21 commissioners?

22 MR. HUDSON: Well, to start off with I'm just  
23 like -- more or less, I think everybody here that disagree  
24 with this is all about our rights. Every day the  
25 government takes more and more of our rights and they do

1 and we all know it. No. 1, no is no. If it's such a great  
2 deal there is other ways to do it. If it is such a great  
3 thing, there are other ways to do it besides taking  
4 property and other people's rights just so one individual  
5 or one company can make money. You know, and there is.  
6 I'm sorry, you guys may or may not, I don't know what you  
7 all do for a living besides this. I have no idea. Imagine  
8 if you were walking and someone comes up to you and says,  
9 "I can better utilize what you do by taking it from you and  
10 paying you what I say it's worth or whatever we do.  
11 However that works. I will do better than you, but you're  
12 still going to pay the taxes on it. You're still going to  
13 have to deal with me. I'm going to take what I want from  
14 you and do what I want to do with it and which limits your  
15 ability." That's my biggest problem with this. Since I  
16 was a kid, since I was a kid, I watched Highway 54 go in  
17 and they demolished houses and took stuff. My old man told  
18 me that is eminent domain. I thought how in the hell do  
19 you take property from someone else just for the public  
20 good. I understand the public good. This is a private  
21 company. This is a private company. I don't agree with it  
22 even if it is for the public good, I don't agree with it.  
23 Like I said, most of these people have worked their entire  
24 lives to have what they have just so we can ask and beg the  
25 five of you or the four of you to beg you, please sir, do

1 not take my stuff. Please do not allow -- please do not  
2 give this company the ability to take my stuff. I showed  
3 up and I don't have -- I didn't prepare anything because I  
4 don't know what I want to say. I'm livid over this entire  
5 thing. I have to stand up here to try and prove my case to  
6 four individuals that I don't know and don't know nothing  
7 about me. I don't care. Don't blame me. I'm not trying  
8 to be rude but I don't care about you. You know, try to  
9 imagine if you were in our shoes. That's all I can say.  
10 There is no need for this. It's been said repeatedly.  
11 It's for somebody who wants to make money. I think maybe I  
12 will apply for certificate of convenience of necessity  
13 because gentleman, I hate to say this I will pay more taxes  
14 on your all's farm if you just paid for what I owe on it,  
15 so there you go. We're good. I mean, anyway, that's all I  
16 have to say. I'm totally against this for those reasons.  
17 As well as anything else. We don't know environmental  
18 concerns. We don't know many, many things but, you know,  
19 it's just aggravating to say the absolute least that we all  
20 have to take the time out of our day to come and in essence  
21 beg the four of you people to not allow them to take it.  
22 I'm probably like the majority that feel most of you have  
23 already been bought anyway. So I really hope that you're  
24 not. I really, really, really hope that you do the right  
25 thing because, you know, all of us are citizens. This is

1 about our rights. You all have anything for me?

2 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Hudson, thank you for your  
3 comments.

4 MR. HUDSON: Yes, sir.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Michael Kelley.

6 MR. KELLEY: Michael Kelley, M-i-c-h-a-e-l,  
7 K-e-l-l-e-y.

8 (Witness sworn.)

9 MR. KELLEY: Good afternoon, commissioners and  
10 staff. I am the vice president and general manager for  
11 Hubbell Power Systems in Centralia, Missouri. Thank you  
12 for the opportunity to present a statement in support of  
13 Grain Belt's request to amend the certificate in means of  
14 necessity. For those not familiar with Hubbell, the  
15 Centralia, Missouri location is part of a group of  
16 companies, which manufacture a wide variety of  
17 distribution, transmission, substation products for  
18 utilities, with products for communication department as  
19 well. If you look up a power pole, 80 to 90 percent of  
20 what you see attached to the poles or towers are  
21 manufactured by companies of Hubbell. We have strong  
22 presence in Missouri with locations in St. Louis, Fenton,  
23 Cuba, and Centralia. Over 750 employees work on the  
24 Centralia campus involved in the manufacturing, testing,  
25 distribution, engineering, marketing, and customer service.

1 The Centralia manufacturing campus has been there for 116  
2 of years and we are there to stay. An additional 530  
3 Hubbell employees work in the other three Missouri location  
4 around the state. I give you this background because I  
5 believe it's important for you to understand that due to  
6 our long company history and capabilities of the things we  
7 manufacture, distribution capabilities that Hubbell was  
8 selected to manufacture a wide range of hardware assemblies  
9 and other equipment for the Grain Belt Express project.  
10 Besides manufacturing the product, Grain Belt also utilizes  
11 the distribution center in Centralia as a staging point  
12 both Hubbell and other manufacturers for the Grain Belt  
13 Express project. Hubbell will also manage the logistics  
14 for delivery of that material at job site locations. We  
15 estimate around 65 jobs would be created to support the GBX  
16 project and the Grain Belt Express will provide more  
17 affordable power for our company and community ultimately  
18 lowering our costs for manufacturing and keeping us more  
19 competitive in this local economy. Having unanimously  
20 ruled this project in the public interest previously, I  
21 guess what's left to decide now is whether the project  
22 delivers a greater share of power here in Missouri. I  
23 request that Missourians and even project opponents asked  
24 the Grain Belt Express for years. This amendment and the  
25 Grain Belt Tiger Connector are necessary to meet that

1 demand certainly from an electrical perspective. Invenergy  
2 Transmission, the owner of Grain Belt Express, continues to  
3 be a corporate citizen and partner to local businesses like  
4 Hubbell. They worked with our company and other  
5 construction suppliers, contractors, and businesses to  
6 ensure Missouri businesses are involved. Stakeholders in  
7 billions of dollars in structure development that this  
8 project will bring to the region. I urge you to approve  
9 the amendment in order to enable the significant additional  
10 energy changes will provide to Missouri energy consumers  
11 and businesses like Hubbell. Thank you for your time. Any  
12 questions?

13 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Clarissa Cauthorn.

14 MS. CAUTHORN: Good afternoon. My name is  
15 Clarissa Cauthorn, C-l-a-r-i-s-s-a, C-a-u-t-h-o-r-n.

16 (Witness sworn.)

17 MS. CAUTHORN: Good afternoon. Thank you for  
18 having me. I say that but I have to say but in that.  
19 There are a lot of things to be shameful for in this room  
20 today. We should be shameful for the fact that all are men  
21 and women sitting in this room fighting for their property  
22 rights. Folks that have raised their children here, paid  
23 property taxes, and hope to build homes in the future not  
24 only for themselves but for their children. They are  
25 curious today that the Public Service Commission today will

1 listen to them and hear their concerns and go home thinking  
2 about how it impacts them and the rest of us for  
3 generations. There are folks in this room that may not  
4 comment but have to me in the past that they have planted  
5 apple trees, walnut trees, pecans; roots here that have  
6 been here for ages. My question is, is reconsidering this  
7 hard enough? The other thing I find shameful today is that  
8 today is the only opportunity that we get to see you all  
9 straight to your face and in your eyes. I have posted more  
10 public hearings about this exact Tiger Connector than the  
11 Public Service Commission for these folks to plea their  
12 case. I have friends in DC and talked to representation  
13 for clean line that lobby for them that have thought this  
14 is all but a done deal. I ask you as a Public Service  
15 Commission, is this just another check in a box for the  
16 golden parachute that Invenergy seems to have in this state  
17 or are you truly hearing what my friends, neighbors, family  
18 members that I consider are saying? I ask this not only as  
19 a neighbor but as the county farm bureau president, a  
20 cattleman ma board member, and someone that plans to raise  
21 her two children here with hopes that they will come back  
22 and raise their children as well. Public Service  
23 Commission, please take into consideration who the folks  
24 are who support you with their tax dollars. Who the folks  
25 are that appoint you into this very high position. Thank

1 you for your time.

2 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you, Ms.

3 Cauthorn. You didn't mention your county of residence?

4 MS. CAUTHORN: I live here in Audrain. I  
5 apologize.

6 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Who do you represent?

7 MS. CAUTHORN: Just myself and my family.

8 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Did I hear you say that  
9 you are county Farm Bureau president?

10 MS. CAUTHORN: I am and I serve on our local  
11 cattleman board.

12 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: And are you related to  
13 John Cauthorn?

14 MS. CAUTHORN: I am.

15 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: How?

16 MS. CAUTHORN: I am his daughter-in-law.  
17 Don't hold it against me, right?

18 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Too late. Thank you.

19 JUDGE CLARK: William Hollander.

20 MR. HOLLANDER: Good afternoon. Am I close  
21 enough to the microphone? I had some dental work done, so  
22 I apologize. My wife and I are landowners. We own a  
23 fairly large farm --

24 JUDGE CLARK: Would you state and spell your  
25 name?



1 MR. HOLLANDER: William Hollander,  
2 H-o-l-l-a-n-d-e-r. My wife and I own a fairly large  
3 farm --

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 JUDGE CLARK: I apologize for interrupting  
6 you.

7 MR. HOLLANDER: That's okay. Probably a  
8 better lawyer than a witness. My wife and I own a fairly  
9 large farm in the path of the project. We rent most of  
10 farm to the Stemme's and partners and they do corn and  
11 soybeans in our farms. We grow pecans on the rest of it.  
12 I went to first grade here and I went to tenth grade here.  
13 My parents bought that farm 60 years ago. I live in St.  
14 Louis right now and practice law there. We are going to  
15 retire here probably in the next year. We are not in favor  
16 of the way the people have been treated. I don't want to  
17 repeat a bunch of stuff that other people said so I'm going  
18 to try and say things that I don't think people have. We  
19 rely on that farm for much of our income. I don't know how  
20 much of my law practice can move up here on Columbia. It's  
21 going hamper the effect on us all of the things that have  
22 already been mentioned. The gentleman who testified  
23 maintenance under the wire, we lost almost all of our crop  
24 one year one year it was so dry. The renters paid to bring  
25 in the plane to drop -- it was to wet -- so the payed to

1 bring this plane in to drop down that saved our corn crop.  
2 These were not planes that were flying under our wires.  
3 They were out Chicago that came 1,000 miles using the whole  
4 600-acres to turn around. We are not going to be able to  
5 do that again if they this wire in and it's dry like that.  
6 They spent a lot of time with the problems with the highly  
7 erodable soil with guidelines from farm services and office  
8 up there that they have to comply with. We have been  
9 trying to negotiate the farm belt for 50 years to try and  
10 avoid another dust bowl situation and now these people want  
11 to come in and build right in the middle of their field  
12 around. One thing that that was not mentioned and I they  
13 tell us that the future is automated farming. Soon there  
14 will not be a farmer in a tractor that is farming my farm.  
15 I don't think that is going to work very well when the  
16 tractor runs into the electric wire and you have got a  
17 lawsuit and you have got people injured or whatever. The  
18 situation is these are big farms, big fields and big  
19 operations. I go to the store in St. Louis and I can't get  
20 all the food I want. They say there is a food shortage. I  
21 can't get the brand I want. I had to buy the little  
22 crackers and not the big crackers. We don't have an  
23 electric shortage in Audrain County. I get fantastic  
24 service and solid electric. It is better than my electric  
25 service in St. Louis. We do not want interference in our

1 operation. We do not want run wires where we do not want  
2 them. The Stemmes farm by us is basically two squares on a  
3 checkerboard that sit diagonal to our two squares and they  
4 all join the same corner. What I understand they want to  
5 put that wire right through the corner that services four  
6 different fields and four different farming operations  
7 right now. We have already got all kinds of stuff coming  
8 in and out of there. My dad and his dad made that  
9 agreement that we could drive across that corner and they  
10 could drive across that corner so their field was  
11 landlocked so we had access to both roads. Our farm runs  
12 from Highway D all the way to the county line. Couple  
13 other things that maybe were not mentioned, these farmers  
14 -- I'm from St. Louis. I try cases in St. Louis County. I  
15 come up here to court too, but I spend most of my time in  
16 St. Louis the past 35 years. In St. Louis if somebody  
17 wants something and they don't like it, they will stand up  
18 and say that right away. These folks are quiet. I go to  
19 Wal-Mart and they don't say much. They don't say something  
20 unless it needs to be said. The fact that you have got  
21 this whole group out here and upset. They are almost  
22 unanimously upset with the way they have been treated is  
23 quite significant. If I had to, you know, as a lawyer my  
24 job sometimes is to get groups and get them motivated. If  
25 I had to do that in St. Louis that would be a lot easier

1 than up here. It's kind of hard to get them on board.  
2 What they mentioned is true, there is a whole silent  
3 majority out here that has not come forward because they  
4 are afraid of being penalized or afraid of being  
5 mistreated. People don't like lawyers and don't like  
6 meanies. You talk about whether this affects us. You know  
7 what's supposed to be happening today? They are all  
8 supposed to be farming. There is nobody out there. The  
9 cows are out there and there is nothing happening at my  
10 place. We were supposed to be putting up a grain bin.  
11 They are here. They are not getting any payment or  
12 compensation. It's very time consuming. They are worried  
13 about it. They are laying awake at night. I'm not here to  
14 tell you how to do your job. It says "Public Service  
15 Commission" right on the front. Don't forget the public  
16 part. It's my understanding that is who you are here to  
17 look out for. We don't need this. It's not necessary. We  
18 have consolidated electric. We have adequate electric  
19 service. It is not convenient for us. They think they can  
20 run over us. At the end of the day, it comes down to what  
21 the other guy said, somebody else trying to think they know  
22 better how to make money off of our land than we do. I  
23 think that the whole thing is wrong. I appreciate you  
24 letting me talk. Do you have any questions for me?

25 JUDGE CLARK: No. Thank you. Thank you for

1 your comments.

2 MR. SCHULTE: This is Andrew Schulte  
3 representing Grain Belt Express. Just for clarification of  
4 the record, Mr. Hollander, are you the same Mr. Hollander  
5 who is the intervener in the case?

6 MR. HOLLANDER: Correct. I failed to mention  
7 that.

8 MR. SCHULTE: Thank you.

9 MR. HOLLANDER: My wife and I are interveners.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Kelly Princeton?

11 MS. PRINCETON: I yield my time.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Greg Stowers.

13 MR. STOWERS: Charles Gregory Stowers,  
14 C-h-a-r-l-e-s, G-r-e-g-o-r-y, S-t-o-w-e-r-s.

15 (Witness sworn.)

16 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

17 MR. STOWERS: I will just give a little  
18 background where I come from. I was born and raised in  
19 Audrain County. I grew up in Ag and I have been a farmer  
20 basically my entire life in some form or passion. I was  
21 also a real estate agent for 10 years and currently a  
22 claims supervisor for a large crop insurance. So ag runs  
23 deep my my blood. With that being said, I also reside on a  
24 farm that I farm that we have owned for over 125 years.  
25 Luckily, one of our farms was picked initially but it got

1 moved so as long as that doesn't change, we are in the  
2 clear. Some of the farms that I do farm are going to have  
3 the power lines across them at this time. So first I hope  
4 this committee is taking very seriously of allowing the  
5 landowners rights being taken away for another company to  
6 make profit on ground that is and have been the family's  
7 property that they have paid for, paid taxes, and spent  
8 many years of sweat and blood making their ground grown.  
9 If the decision is made to allowed Tiger Connector to go  
10 through, this will have many impacts for many years to come  
11 including return on investment, the claim of reference to  
12 production of products, time management efficiency, and  
13 ultimately the ground land and price. Our ag products,  
14 whether livestock or row crops, will be impacted due to  
15 impaction and removal of high quality topsoil which will  
16 have a direct impact on the production. To the management  
17 aspect, when poles are added to the ground operation  
18 efficiency will decline and obviously limits the  
19 opportunity of bettering the ground, for example irrigation  
20 or water management. Not only does this affect my  
21 generation, but will for every generation to follow. I  
22 don't believe in Invenergy in being a private company for  
23 profit is offering all they can. Profit sharing and/or  
24 cheap energy should be offered to the affected land owners  
25 or anyone close enough to offset the future loss to the

1 land owners or the community. Also even though it may be  
2 more expensive, Invenergy could use current easements or  
3 underground but are choosing to go take other ground at the  
4 public expense, which is wrong. It should be at the  
5 Invenergy expense and not the landowners. There is also a  
6 community impact that I don't think anyone can answer in  
7 the longterm effect and that is the health and the  
8 environmental impact. Once it is built, there is not  
9 getting any of these impacts back due to high voltage  
10 lines.

11 Secondly, Grain Belt is applying for  
12 taxpayer's money that will ultimately pay for their  
13 projects. At this time, to my knowledge, there has not  
14 been anything built and has no income to substantiate this  
15 is a viable business model on their first project.  
16 Invenergy has stated their energy will be so much cheaper  
17 than others. There is no proof to this other than their  
18 word. I don't believe our local co-ops have signed on with  
19 them. I have major concerns as this project is now in the  
20 hands of a second company as the other has failed and yet  
21 nothing has been built on the original project. They are  
22 wanting to grab more real estate for another project and  
23 are now changing from their original plan.

24 Finally, I would say this is bad business and  
25 is not in the best interest of the public. For sure not

1 the landowners who will ultimately be forced to give up  
2 their land rights. I would like to thank you for your time  
3 and consideration for all of the comments today.

4 JUDGE CLARK: John Burns.

5 MR. BURNS: My name is John Burns, J-o-h-n,  
6 B-u-r-n-s.

7 (Witness sworn.)

8 MR. BURNS: It's a little redundant. I kind  
9 of feel like I'm a preacher the first time he's being  
10 interviewed. Sorry. My name is John Burns and I'm a  
11 resident of Callaway County for more than 50 years. I live  
12 on a Century Farm that has been in my wife's family for  
13 just close to 150 years. I would urge you to deny imminent  
14 domain to the Tiger Connector proposed by Invenergy. This  
15 is a for-profit company not a public utility as they would  
16 present themselves. Imminent domain requires three things,  
17 three parts. The first is the property taken must be for  
18 the public use only? Second, just compensation must be  
19 paid for the landowner in exchange for the property. These  
20 lines in many cases will destroy a moving -- I'm sorry,  
21 will destroy a small farm due to the tower locations. I  
22 personally know a family moving from a family home due to  
23 the proposed tower location. This would be from their  
24 house. The third is that no person can be deprived of  
25 their property without due process of law. So for-profit



1 company wants to cut a large swatch to many counties  
2 bullying, threatening, or suing the landowner. Many are  
3 elderly living alone and these people come in and terrorize  
4 them forcing them to agree under the threat of a lawsuit.  
5 These folks can't afford a lawyer and all the expense  
6 involved with legal fees just to keep their own land. I  
7 have been in meetings with these reps and they are rude and  
8 use bullying tactics. One meeting of county commissioners  
9 they told them they could basically do whatever they  
10 wanted. They didn't care what the county commissioners  
11 wanted or what the county wanted. They would do what they  
12 wanted. They could bury the lines as was done in Germany,  
13 which would alleviate a lot of the problems. The PSC is  
14 the Public Service Commission, your job is to protect the  
15 citizens of the state of Missouri from companies with  
16 questionable practices. This company is very questionable  
17 in view of the fact they need to take taxpayer money to  
18 build a project that Missouri residents don't want or need.  
19 The customers they say they have are basically bought with  
20 the promise of almost free electricity. Please do not give  
21 them any more power to destroy the farms and lives of the  
22 Missouri residents. Do not give them the ability to steal  
23 anymore property from the farmers. Thank you. Any  
24 questions?

25 JUDGE CLARK: None. Thank you. Susan Burns.

1 MS. BURNS: My name is Susan Burns, last name  
2 is B-u-r-n-s.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 JUDGE CLARK: Please go ahead.

5 MS. BURNS: All right. Thank you for letting  
6 me come and speak a few minute. I'm not going to cover all  
7 of the things that everybody else has covered, which is  
8 most of what I was going to say. What I really want to try  
9 to share with the PSC today is my feeling -- the Grain Belt  
10 is not coming across my land. That was my husband that  
11 just talked. I own a Century Farm and I have been there the  
12 whole 75 years of my life. I am apart of the community and  
13 community works together. They play together. They suffer  
14 together. So you heard in my husband's voice his emotion.  
15 Not that the Grain Belt is going across his land but it's  
16 going across his neighbor's land and we care about our  
17 neighbors. So you are destroying a community, not just a  
18 farm. When the farms begin to fail, the farms around them  
19 will begin to fail. With when the grid comes in of this  
20 size and brings in other green energy, which for sure it  
21 will. You heard another gentleman say he was holding a  
22 lease and I have seen it, that Invenergy has offered to  
23 lease ground to begin solar operation and it's within five  
24 miles of where the Invenergy station is in Kingdom city.  
25 We know that they are coming and plan to bring wind

1 turbines here and that's going to cover all of our  
2 farmland. So Grain Belt is kind of like -- they come in  
3 and they bring all of the peripheral things with them.  
4 They are using eminent domain to be able to come in and  
5 control these whole entire communities. So I would ask you  
6 to think about that as well as you think about these  
7 individuals that are going to suffer. It's going to make  
8 the whole community suffer and the whole county and  
9 eventually I think the whole state. Thank you for  
10 listening to me.

11 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments, Ms.  
12 Burns. Charles Henke.

13 MR. HENKE: Good afternoon. Charles Henke,  
14 C-h-a-r-l-e-s, H-e-n-k-e. First of all thanks for hearing  
15 us out. Sorry.

16 JUDGE CLARK: I need to swear you in.

17 (Witness sworn.)

18 MR. HENKE: I have been at this quite a few  
19 years now, over a decade. Of course you all approved the  
20 first line, but I believe this is a little different. This  
21 seems like it's being pushed through pretty quickly. I ask  
22 that you all deny this line mainly because it's a new line.  
23 This isn't a spur. This isn't a adjoining line. It's a  
24 new line with a new destination for electricity. They are  
25 wanting to change the converter station. In order to do

1 that they should have to start over. They should be back  
2 to square one for the company. They shouldn't just be  
3 allowed to be granted a free pass and it sure seems like  
4 what's been happening here. We have been good faith  
5 negotiation with Grain Belt for quite a few years now.  
6 First of all, we deal with contract line staff, let's just  
7 say they haven't willing to negotiate at all. The main  
8 point I was wanting to make when negotiating with them is I  
9 wanted to move the line a few hundred feet. I think it's  
10 about 200 feet or less. What it will do, we have already  
11 done a path through some timber where we would like for the  
12 line to go. They want to cut a new path right next to it.  
13 It's going to make a big wide open space. Actually on the  
14 eastern edge of the property, there is a section of timber  
15 there and they want to go directly through the center of it  
16 and taking out a lot more trees. It will also create a  
17 wind tunnel, which will later affect the crops. Also right  
18 where they want to put it is right where all of calves  
19 calve in the middle of September and it can be hot so they  
20 need the shade. I have asked many, many times if they will  
21 move the line just a few hundred feet to the north and  
22 every time they will not even negotiate. They say no.  
23 That's where the line is going, tough. As far as the  
24 dollar compensation, we have negotiated many times with  
25 Contract Land Staff and now Polsinelli. They won't raise

1 their offer. They will imply imminent domain, so they  
2 won't do it. I know part of the reason is because I'm up  
3 here speaking. I guarantee you this will be used against  
4 me in our negotiations. 100 percent chance it will. I  
5 have been a very vocal voice since the beginning and they  
6 are using it against me now. I also feel strongly enough  
7 that, you know, you got to stand for something otherwise  
8 you're just going to get pushed around. I feel very  
9 passionate about this because it's going right through the  
10 center of my farm. Moving that line, it won't affect  
11 anybody else. The one thing it will affect is less trees  
12 will be cut down and it will make it easier for us to  
13 handle the cattle on that property. They will have more  
14 shade so on and so forth. Why are they allowed to  
15 completely reroute and move electricity and move their line  
16 but they won't negotiate with landowners and make it better  
17 on the land that we own and better on us, too. They won't  
18 do it. I will tell you in that contract, I don't know if  
19 you all have been able to see it, but it is very flawed.  
20 One of the things in it was in the contract they handed to  
21 me said they would not pay damages to us after completion  
22 of the project. So if something happens and they come  
23 through, we're out. Tough. We won't get paid. They come  
24 through and destroy crop, that's just tough for us. I'm  
25 talking ten years down the road or whatever it is that

1 happens. Also I can tell you this room would be a lot more  
2 full if the people that have already signed easements  
3 unwillingly were allowed to come. I know a lot of people  
4 have signed easements only because of the threat of  
5 imminent domain. They were as passionate as me about them  
6 coming here. They were told by Polsinelli that if they  
7 were to publicly bad mouth the company or the project, they  
8 would not be paid the rest of their compensation. Many,  
9 many people have told me that. People that have already  
10 signed. One thing that kind of stuck with me in the  
11 comments here is Mr. Wilcox said that he was for it. Well  
12 part of it is he gets paid by Grain Belt.

13 MR. WILCOX: That is a lie.

14 MR. HENKE: We find out why the Randolph  
15 County Commissioners were voted out. He chose not to run  
16 but he also knew there was no way he would be elected again  
17 because of this project. Again, I just ask you all to --  
18 and I don't know the whole Mr. Wilcox deal. It may be. I  
19 haven't heard that. I jut heard that rumor that he was  
20 being paid by Grain Belt on several occasions. So that's  
21 all speculative and not -- I obviously don't know that for  
22 sure. But I have heard that for many, many years. I do  
23 know that there is no way that any of the county  
24 commissioners that voted for this or were in favor of this  
25 would ever get elected again because the people of the

1 county are affected all the way across the state are that  
2 passionate about this.

3 JUDGE CLARK: I'm going to cut you off here.  
4 Good.

5 MR. HENKE: That's all I have to say.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Any questions?

7 MR. SCHULTE: Mr. Henke, you indicated that  
8 Mr. Wilcox was being paid by the company and then walked  
9 that back as speculation. Is the claim that Polsinelli  
10 told somebody?

11 MR. HENKE: So that claim came from the  
12 landowner themselves.

13 MR. SCHULTE: But did you hear that?

14 MR. HENKE: I heard that directly from -- are  
15 you talking about they spoke out publicly against them they  
16 wouldn't be paid the rest of the money?

17 MR. SCHULTE: Yes, I heard that directly from  
18 the landowners.

19 MR. SCHULTE: You did not hear that directly?

20 MR. HENKE: Not from Polsinelli. It was from  
21 two landowners and one landowner said another person said  
22 the same thing if that makes sense.

23 MR. SCHULTE: You have no firsthand knowledge  
24 of that?

25 MR. HENKE: No, not directly from Polsinelli

1 White. Just directly with the landowners that dealt with  
2 Polsinelli White.

3 MR. SCHULTE: One other question. The path of  
4 the line that you were discussing, that's on the high  
5 voltage direct current line, not the Tiger Connector?

6 MR. HENKE: That is correct. I was mainly  
7 saying that because why should they be able to reroute the  
8 line when they are not willing to reroute the line, why  
9 should they be allowed to reroute counties and miles away  
10 from the original plan. That's why I say they should have  
11 to start over at square one, instead of being just passed  
12 through.

13 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments. We  
14 do have another question.

15 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: If you could get in  
16 touch with the individuals who supposedly told you that the  
17 law firm said they could not come and could not bad mouth  
18 or whatever was said, if you could have them reach out to  
19 the Office of Public Counsel or the staff of the  
20 Commission, that would be information that we would  
21 definitely want to have and I would encourage that.

22 MR. HENKE: I will greatly try. I can  
23 honestly tell you that they are scared to be honest. They  
24 are scared of the ramifications that will happen to them.  
25 I can't force them to be here. I can't force them to do



1 it. I will try as hard as I can to do that.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Do you have any other questions?

3 MR. SCHULTE: Again -- well, I don't have any  
4 further questions.

5 JUDGE CLARK: We had an outburst during that.  
6 I would ask that we not have any others. You may not agree  
7 with what somebody else says but please respect their right  
8 to stand up here and give their opinion. Lance Spauldin,  
9 is there a Spauldin last name?

10 MR. SPAULDIN: Yes. Larry Spauldin,  
11 S-p-a-u-l-d-i-n.

12 JUDGE CLARK: Sorry, Mr. Spauldin. I had some  
13 difficulty reading your name.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 MR. SPAULDIN: I got two or three questions so  
16 I won't be here long. Most everything since I have gotten  
17 older involves public land. Last time I read the reports,  
18 solar and wind power wasn't efficient without government  
19 subsidizing. That's the No. 1 question. No. 2 question,  
20 just say for instance I give \$500.00 an acre for my land.  
21 Just say someone comes along and offers me \$15,000.00 an  
22 acre. Do you think capital gains tax, would I end up with?  
23 Then we talked about Hubbell, I never knew Hubbell being in  
24 the concrete business. So if anybody has any questions to  
25 ask me. I got one other thing, if I hear what the reports

1 are I don't know that the Public Service Commission has got  
2 the authority to do it without changing the law.

3 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Mr. Spauldin, thank you  
4 for your comments. Jeffrey Martin.

5 MR. MARTIN: Jeffrey Martin, J-e-f-f-r-e-y,  
6 M-a-r-t-i-n.

7 (Witness sworn.)

8 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman and members of the  
9 Commission, my name is Jeffrey Martin and I am the Director  
10 of Carroll County Chamber Of Commerce and I also work  
11 closely with Carroll County Commissioners. Carroll County  
12 has been a longterm supporter of the Grain Belt Express.  
13 Grain Belt has already given back to our community a great  
14 deal. Last year for example they handed out business  
15 grants to non-profit organizations in our county. The  
16 Grain Belt has and continues to be a valued part of our  
17 community. During and after the Grain Belt construction,  
18 Grain Belt will become one of the largest property  
19 taxpayers in Carroll County. As with many counties with  
20 our size, we face budget issues. So having this added  
21 economic driver will make a big difference to our  
22 residents. Specifically the added tax base will benefit  
23 our local schools greatly and will help pay for increased  
24 salaries to essential personnel like our sheriff.  
25 Additionally many individuals and businesses in Carroll

1 County struggle to support the rising energy costs, which  
2 is why we are also in full support of the Tiger Connector.  
3 As someone who spends a lot of time dealing with businesses  
4 and working on finances, I can assure you the Tiger  
5 Connector will be a benefit to our county and to  
6 Missourians. I would like to thank you for your time. If  
7 you have any questions.

8 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: You just made it a  
9 point to discuss Grain Belt's contribution to property  
10 taxes. That they will be paying high property taxes. Some  
11 of the comments we heard today from numerous people in the  
12 audience have been about the fact that they will be paying  
13 property taxes on land they can't use. Can you clarify for  
14 that for me in any way?

15 MR. MARTIN: I can't go into specifics but my  
16 understanding is they will be contributing to the property  
17 taxes. During any construction phase, there will also be  
18 additional property taxes on any equipment and vehicles  
19 that are used on that construction as they are stored  
20 there.

21 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: So annually I pay  
22 property taxes and some years -- depends on what I'm paying  
23 it on. So are you saying that basically these property  
24 owners or property taxes will be offset by what Grain Belt  
25 is paying in their property taxes or do you know? You

1 didn't come here as a tax professional, but since you  
2 brought it up I need to know what you know.

3 MR. MARTIN: I don't know much more than my  
4 understanding is there will be some property tax benefits.  
5 So the specifics, I really couldn't get into with you.

6 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Okay. Thank you.

7 MR. MARTIN: You're welcome.

8 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments,  
9 Mr. Martin. Roger Fischer.

10 MR. FISCHER: Thank you for the opportunity to  
11 come before the commission. Would you please state and  
12 spell your name for the record?

13 MR. FISCHER: Roger Fischer, R-o-g-e-r,  
14 F-i-s-c-h-e-r.

15 (Witness sworn.)

16 MR. FISCHER: I come today because I represent  
17 Callaway County. I am a Western District Commissioner. I  
18 attend the meeting today with the grace of the other two  
19 commissioners and we all ask for you to deny the  
20 application by Grain Belt. The primary reason that --  
21 well, the single reason we do not believe they qualify for  
22 the use of eminent domain by not being able to, at our  
23 level and through the public meetings, information  
24 available to us publicly justify in our mind necessity. So  
25 outside of the other two commissioners, I believe that most

1 every other development of this size requires environmental  
2 studies. We have yet to see any environmental studies  
3 especially for the nature of other things that have stopped  
4 and slowing down other projects in our county right down to  
5 our bridges that we put across our county roads. We often  
6 have to have an environmental and that includes how it  
7 affects bats and birds of prey. We haven't that. Perhaps  
8 you have. I cannot imagine you would have anything that  
9 would transgress this many counties in the state of Missouri  
10 and not show environmental studies for each of the counties  
11 that it passes through. Another thing that I personally  
12 have a problem with is that if they were granted imminent  
13 domain by the Public Commission, the valuation of  
14 1.5 percent only 20 months ago most of the cropland in our  
15 area could have been bought for around \$4,000.00 to  
16 \$5,000.00. Twenty months later, we are \$10,000.00 plus  
17 whatever you want to pay above that. It's often going for  
18 around \$12,000.00 an acre now. So if you take that 1.5  
19 times 20 months ago, you wouldn't even be at the value it  
20 is today. You would be right there. It's not a premium,  
21 1.5 is not a premium price to pay for anything under duress  
22 of imminent domain. With that, I will take any questions.

23 JUDGE CLARK: No questions for you. Thank you  
24 for your time. Brian.

25 MR. SCHNARRD: Brian Schnarrd, B-r-i-a-n,

1 S-c-h-n-a-r-r-d.

2 JUDGE CLARK: What would you like to tell the  
3 commission today?

4 MR. SCHNARRD: One of the things, I live in  
5 Boone County, but I do farm in Audrain County and this is  
6 crossing some farms that I do farm. One of the experiences  
7 I had is one elderly land lady that owned the farm was call  
8 ed and wanting to do survey on her farm. Was not given who  
9 or why or what they were surveying for. She was quite  
10 upset about it. I had to calm her down and everything.  
11 Made her feel better. The only people that I can think of  
12 would be serving is this power line because there is  
13 nothing else going on around it. That kind of bothers me  
14 that they do things like that especially with an elderly  
15 lady and she has a hard time understanding these kinds of  
16 things. It really upset her. The other thing I would like  
17 to do is this would be my 53rd crop year in this part of  
18 the country. You know, I have been farming all of my life.  
19 I have been here for 53 years. My son and my daughter are  
20 going to be taking over and hopefully they will do it  
21 another 50 years and so forth. Every year we have to farm  
22 around these structures. Equipment is getting like  
23 somebody else said, we have 120-foot booms, 60-foot  
24 planters and it's an obstacle take to go around. I don't  
25 know how many of you have an agriculture background. It's

1 an obstacle to go around. One of the things when we are  
2 putting herbicides on, we're putting on rates down to five  
3 ounces per acre. When we start doubling up, that doubles  
4 the rate and that's when you start getting damages crops  
5 trying to go around these objects. That affects crop  
6 production. One of the other things that bothered when we  
7 had our meetings earlier with this company in Mexico here,  
8 they were one of these is right along a boundary line of a  
9 farm. I asked them what kind of easement and everything  
10 and they said 150 feet. I said well, do you put your posts  
11 right along the edge. They said no, we put it 75 into the  
12 field. There is no reason why they can't move it over and  
13 put it right on the boundary line or real close to it so it  
14 becomes less of an obstacle. They seem willing to not even  
15 discuss any other way. So this kind of bothers and what  
16 kind of negotiations we're going to have if they take it  
17 with imminent domain. They need to be able to work with  
18 the farmers so we can work the rest of our lives. To give  
19 you a hint how much these poles or structures cause like  
20 today, my son and daughter are working with Boone Electric,  
21 which is our Cooperative, we are burying the power lines  
22 into to our farm so we can eliminate about a dozen poles in  
23 the amount of our fields. It's costing a lot of money to  
24 get that done but it's something. You know, we know how  
25 much these structures costs when we operate our in our

1 fields. That's not even considering what's coming in the  
2 future with the tractors and so forth. We use GPS and all  
3 of that. I'm a little bit concerned with this high of  
4 voltage and if our GPS signal will work that well around.  
5 If you're going across the field and your tractor jumps  
6 five feet off and I have to get it back online, you just  
7 messed up that pasts through the field. You either have to  
8 turn around and straighten it out or do something. So I  
9 just want -- that's what I wanted to bring up. You got to  
10 think about if this line ever quits being used, who is  
11 going to get rid of it? I haven't heard nothing about how  
12 to decommission this thing and how to move the structures.  
13 This always concerns me. Electric poles, a wooden one, we  
14 can get rid of them. When you are talking about a  
15 structure 200 feet tall and probably has 50 to 75-yards of  
16 concrete under it, that's a different story. That's all I  
17 wanted to bring forward here. Thank you.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Dennis Farmer? Dennis Farmer?  
19 Joe O'Bannon? Joe O'Bannon? Marilyn Smith.

20 MS. SMITH: I am Marilyn Smith, M-a-r-i-l-y-n,  
21 S-m-i-t-h.

22 (Witness sworn.)

23 MS. SMITH: I -- my son and I -- can you hear  
24 me? My son and I farm in northwest Callaway County. We  
25 farm about 2500-acres and the Grain Belt Express wants to



1 send that Tiger Connector diagonally across his farm,  
2 across two big row crop fields. It's also going across a  
3 lot of our neighbor farms. Some of them are here today and  
4 some of them aren't. But I think it's worth for you to  
5 hear their names: Dave and Pat Stemme, Tim and Mary  
6 McGrudtry, Patty and Dale Griffith, Jason and Mary Smith,  
7 Bill and Annabelle Day, Dave and Mary Winkler, Carlos and  
8 Vera Coke, Michael and Jordan Christenson, Dustin Hudson,  
9 who is here, Toadd and Amanda Vaughan. These lines are  
10 going to be going into the range of power solar field from  
11 there on. I wanted to talk to you a little bit about  
12 farmers and how they feel about land. I can do that by  
13 talking about my own experience. It took my family 32  
14 years to pay for my land. Thirty-two years of sacrifice,  
15 long hours, and working together to achieve our dream. It  
16 was not the end that we kept our eyes on. It was the  
17 journey along the way. It was the joy of purchasing land  
18 and cleaning it up and putting that first crop in. It was  
19 seeing the pride in my eight-year-old son's smile when he  
20 finally was allowed to drive the tractor during harvest.  
21 It was numerous meals brought to the fields to feed hungry  
22 workers and scores of fast trips to town to get parts. It  
23 was the opening of a fertilizer business to boost our  
24 income so we could continue moving forward. There was  
25 sorrow along the way but we kept moving anyway. That

1 eight-year-old boy grew up and was thrust into the role his  
2 daddy held for so long. We kept our eyes on the prize and  
3 we found joy in a new generation of Smith's that learned  
4 how to raise cattle, grow corn, and drive tractors as well.  
5 Now Grain Belt Express wants to use our land and I say no.  
6 There is no amount of money we would take to allow them to  
7 do that. I went to a meeting in Moberly a couple of weeks  
8 ago and it was put on by the Department of Energy and Grain  
9 Belt's Express wants to borrow some money. They want a  
10 guaranteed federal loan. I asked how much they were  
11 wanting to borrow. I got a letter back from Angela Ryan  
12 and this is what she says:

13 "Regarding your question pertaining to the  
14 Central Federal Loan Guarantee Amount, the Department of  
15 Energy is currently evaluating several financial,  
16 technical, environmental, and legal aspects of the  
17 application to determine the amount which would be  
18 potentially be authorized if the federal loan guarantee is  
19 approved. Although we cannot provide an exact number at  
20 this time, the Department of Energy is authorized to  
21 provide up to 80 percent of eligible project costs."

22 You have a lot of power as the Public Service  
23 Commission. What I see is that Grain Belt Express wants to  
24 use our tax money, as well as federal subsidiaries through  
25 the Inflation Reduction Act of 2023 to build something that

1 we do not want on our land. I ask you not to give Grain  
2 Belt Express the power to use imminent domain. Make them  
3 bury their if they insist on doing this and do that along  
4 existing roads. Questions?

5 JUDGE CLARK: No questions. Thank you. That  
6 was the last person I had signed up to speak today. Is  
7 there anyone else that would like to offer comments to the  
8 commission? Would you please say and spell your name for  
9 the record.

10 MS. SNYDER: Mary Snyder, M-a-r-y,  
11 S-n-y-d-e-r.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead.

14 MS. SNYDER: I come from a long line of  
15 farmers as well. I don't know where you all live or what  
16 you do but I hope you can understand how deeply rooted  
17 people are in their farming. If you live in town, do you  
18 want your neighbors running through your yard or do you  
19 want somebody to pull up a tractor and do something in your  
20 backyard? This is something very personal to these people.  
21 I just ask that you decline and vote no. That's it. Any  
22 questions?

23 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments. Is  
24 there anybody else that wanted to offer comments to the  
25 commission today?

1 MR. THOMPSON: Good afternoon. My name is  
2 Mark Thompson, M-a-r-k, T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 MR. THOMPSON: I'm a commissioner from Adair  
5 County. I'm a farmer. I know what's going on. I was  
6 involved in Mark Twain Transmission Line. I knew a long  
7 time ago that you treat people like you want to be treated.  
8 Ameren Illinois decided since I was their neighbor that if  
9 I didn't would give them permission to grant them  
10 permission to come through our county, they were going to  
11 sue me. What did they do, they sued me. If I didn't give  
12 them permission to come through. Do you want people to  
13 treat you like that? Nd I testified at the time during the  
14 Mark Twain Transmission Line to my Public Service  
15 Commission and shared with them the concerns that we had  
16 with Adair County in northeast Missouri about the  
17 adversarial relationship of a utility coming in. We  
18 weren't concerned about them coming in and using imminent  
19 domain, but treat people like you want to be treated.  
20 Public Service Commission, I know that you are serving the  
21 state and public in this area. Last year I was the vice  
22 president of the County Commission Association of the state  
23 of Missouri. So I'm concerned about the people, not only  
24 in the counties here where Grain Belt is coming through,  
25 but the entire state of Missouri. We come here as a group

1 with a concern. I ask that you take a good close look at  
2 this and deny the Grain Belt to come through here. Do you  
3 have any questions?

4 JUDGE CLARK: We have no questions. Is there  
5 anyone else who wanted to offer comments? Before you start  
6 testifying, could you come to the microphone please?

7 MR. BETES: Billy Dean Betes, B-i-l-l-y,  
8 D-e-a-n, B-e-t-e-s.

9 (Witness sworn.)

10 MR. BETES: I was going to direct a question  
11 to the Hubbell representative, Mr. Kelley. I worked with  
12 Hubbell for many years. I started with AB Company. He  
13 made the comment they would produce electrical products for  
14 this company. He said he would potentially put on 60-some  
15 other employees. I won't go into all of it but when I  
16 retired in July of 2020 because of my wife's health, I left  
17 there as a journeyman tool lead person. When my wife  
18 passed away in January of last year, they had been strained  
19 of a design engineer. Larry Kelley, which was the plant  
20 engineer, they asked me to come back to work because they  
21 could not fill my position. When I went back to work, I  
22 worked for them from February 28 until April 8. There was  
23 people -- they were bleeding for help because the company  
24 was not treating them correctly. They still are very  
25 understaffed. Especially the positions of welders, and the

1 machinist; you can't hire people off the street to do these  
2 jobs. I came here to tell Mr. Kelley you can't fill your  
3 porter the way that you want them filled. As I said, I own  
4 a little bit of property in Callaway and I own a little bit  
5 of Audrain of my parents when they passed away. I'm not a  
6 farmer. I tried doing livestock, but I have a are  
7 appreciation for people that do that. I am very much  
8 against this. I'm like the rest of them, it does not  
9 benefit us. I'm afraid it's going to -- anyway I will stop  
10 there. I appreciate your time. I just wanted to -- I was  
11 hoping I could address Mr. Kelley because their company is  
12 having difficulty maintaining the level it used to do when  
13 they ran it years ago. Thank you.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your comments. Is  
15 there anybody else who wishes to make comments? Sir, could  
16 you please state and spell your name?

17 MR. STEMME: Warren Stemme, W-a-r-r-e-n  
18 S-t-e-m-m-e.

19 (Witness sworn.)

20 MR. STEMME: Thank you to the commissioners  
21 and staff for allowing me to make a few comments.  
22 Initially I hadn't intended to speak today, but I wanted to  
23 make a few points after hearing the testimony of everybody  
24 here. My family has owned property in Audrain and Boone  
25 County for about 60 years, so we're somewhat newcomers.

1 Some of the folks that have been here for many years  
2 longer. I do operate a farm row crop operation in St.  
3 Louis county, so I'm an endangered species, one of the few  
4 left farming in that area. I have dealt with utilities and  
5 easements for my entire career, 30 plus years, sometimes on  
6 a daily basis. When dealing with those utilities, I know  
7 where they are going and what the purpose is and what to  
8 expect from them. I have learned a lot of things. How to  
9 grant the easement, so on and so forth, how to get  
10 compensated both for the easement, crop loss or whatever.  
11 When I looked at this project, the connector, I see smoke  
12 and mirrors. They are initially saying they are going to  
13 bring the power to Boone County and surrounding areas, but  
14 as one of the gentleman said, farmer commissioner, that  
15 power can go both ways on this direct current line. I  
16 think the longterm is they are going to take power  
17 generated from solar farms and take it out of the  
18 community. Operating large farm equipment, we have  
19 AmerenUE, I know you have probably heard of them, high  
20 voltage lines and towers on our property in St. Louis  
21 County, and it is an extreme pain in the butt to operate  
22 around them. I cannot upsize some of my equipment because  
23 of restrictions of where these towers are placed with  
24 respect to property lines and adjoining property owners, so  
25 on and so forth. I will tell you as one of the previous

1 speakers had questioned, what happens to farm equipment,  
2 larger pieces that we have GPS, Global Positioning System.  
3 I will tell you from experience, and this happened to me  
4 last week, driving underneath one of these high power  
5 lines, the GP S system shuts down. In fact, the machine  
6 stopped with it. So there are affects to the farm  
7 equipment. I think you should consider this an entirely  
8 new project because of the ability of this line to take  
9 power both ways. It's not -- you may initially bring power  
10 into Boone County and this region but ultimately it's going  
11 to take power out. So I will end there. If there is any  
12 questions I would be glad to try and answer them.

13 JUDGE CLARK: No questions. Thank you. Is  
14 there anyone else who wants to offer comments to the  
15 commission?

16 MR. RIDDEL: I'm an intervener. Am I allowed  
17 to say anything here?

18 JUDGE CLARK: Yes, yes come on up to the  
19 microphone.

20 MR. RIDDEL: My name is Gary, G-a-r-y, Riddel,  
21 R-i-d-d-e-l.

22 (Witness sworn.)

23 MR. RIDDEL: I only have one question, you  
24 can't answer questions but I want to make a point.

25 Thompson with Consolidated Electric transmission said in a



1 meeting before last August that wind energy is intermittent  
2 energy. That it is not consistent. Wind comes and goes.  
3 Consequently he also said that if their company he is  
4 associated with bought power from wind energy, they would  
5 have to establish alternate sources of energy to compensate  
6 for that when the wind does not produce anything. So in  
7 other words they would build a gas-fired power plant to  
8 come along the line when wind energy ceases to produce  
9 anything. Therefore I'm just asking and asking you to  
10 consider how can that be efficient? How can that add \$4.4  
11 billion to our electricity because they are going to have  
12 an investment there that will only kick on probably  
13 25 percent of the time. We are going to be charged for  
14 that as well as whatever was paid for the wind energy. We  
15 consistently have some of the cheapest power in the country  
16 in Audrain County and in Boone County. I don't desire to  
17 see it be increased because we have to pay for intermittent  
18 energy as well as power source to replace it when wind  
19 energy doesn't produce. Those are my comments. Everything  
20 else has been said. I just thank you for giving me the  
21 opportunity to say that. It's a point that hasn't been  
22 raised today and I think it's an important point. I don't  
23 see how this is going to produce \$4.4 billion worth of  
24 energy savings. That's it. I am opposed this, let's be  
25 clear about that. No questions?

1 JUDGE CLARK: No questions. Thank you for  
2 your time. Is there anybody else that wanted to go for  
3 public comments?

4 MR. SCHULTE: Judge, before we go off the  
5 record, can I make a clarification just for the record?

6 JUDGE CLARK: What do you mean clarification?

7 MR. SCHULTE: Regarding a statement about the  
8 Polsinelli's position regarding participation in these  
9 matters?

10 JUDGE CLARK: No, I would ask that you don't.

11 MR. SCHULTE: The reason I ask to make it now  
12 is because we are going to have another one of these  
13 tomorrow. I wanted to let the public know what our  
14 position is.

15 JUDGE CLARK: I believe you specifically asked  
16 or Polsinelli specifically asked if they could make a  
17 statement at the beginning and you said no. I'm going to  
18 stick by that and you are not going to make any other  
19 further statements.

20 MR. SCHULTE: Okay. Many other parties have  
21 made statements and I just want to correct a misstatement  
22 that was on the record that I'm concerned about.

23 JUDGE CLARK: Why don't you just briefly go  
24 ahead. If parties wish to have it struck, they can.

25 MR. SCHULTE: Just wanted to let -- I want it

1 to be on the record it is not nor has it ever been Grain  
2 Belt or Polsinelli's position that the easements have  
3 anything that would prevent participation in these  
4 proceedings or any statements about their experience,  
5 positive or negative.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you.

7 MS. SMITH: That is a lie. Our family has  
8 been --

9 JUDGE CLARK: Again, I'm going to say no  
10 outburst, please. There were a lot of people here today.  
11 This went on for a while. I appreciate all of the  
12 involvement of what the commission does. I would like to  
13 thank everyone who took time out of their day today to come  
14 and offer comments to the commission. The commission does  
15 take these comments very seriously. They do consider them,  
16 these public hearings, and I know that some of you are  
17 disappointed. We also have another virtual one tomorrow.  
18 These are our opportunity to hear from the community. We  
19 appreciate that. It's our only opportunity outside of the  
20 evidentiary hearing in which we hear only from the parties.  
21 If you get home today and you didn't make comments but you  
22 realized that you wanted to or in talking with friends or  
23 neighbors and they wanted to offer comments to the  
24 commission, a local public hearing is not the only place to  
25 offer those comments. You can also offer comments by going

1 to the Public Service Commission webpage. It is the link  
2 by which you can offer comments. You can also, I believe  
3 offer comments within Public Counsel and contact their  
4 office but sending those comments that are filed with the  
5 commission. Are you okay, sir?

6 If you have further questions, you can  
7 obviously contact the company, also the Public Counsel, or  
8 you can contact PSC Consumer Services at (800)392-4211.  
9 With that, I will adjourn this hearing. Thank you very  
10 much.

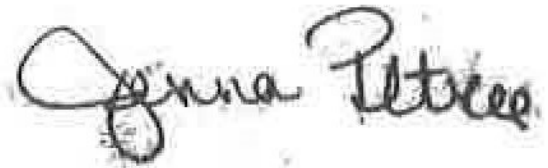
11 (Hearing adjourned at 2:44 p.m.)  
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF MISSOURI     )  
  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF COLE        )

I, Jenna Petree, do hereby certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition was taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.



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