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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
Local Public Hearing
June 11, 2014
Jefferson City, Missouri
Volume 4

Noranda Aluminum, Inc., et al.,)
)
Complainant,)
)
v.) File No.
) EC-2014-0223
Union Electric Company, d/b/a)
Ameren Missouri,)
)
Respondent.)

Noranda Aluminum, Inc., et al.,)
)
Complainant,)
)
v.) File No.
) EC-2014-0224
Union Electric Company, d/b/a)
Ameren Missouri,)
)
Respondent.)

MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, Presiding,
CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.

ROBERT S. KENNEY, Chairman
STEPHEN M. STOLL,
WILLIAM KENNEY,
DANIEL Y. HALL,
COMMISSIONERS.

1

2 REPORTED BY:

3 KELLENE K. FEDDERSEN, CSR, RPR, CCR NO. 838

MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

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

2 (WHEREUPON, the local public hearing
3 began at 6:44 p.m.)

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Good evening once
5 again, everyone. Once again, I'm Morris Woodruff.
6 I'm the Chief Regulatory Law Judge for the Public
7 Service Commission. I'd like to welcome you to
8 formal part of our meeting tonight.

9 And I'll start out by introducing the
10 gentlemen at the table here with me. These are all
11 Commissioners. To my right is Commissioner William
12 Kenney; to my left, Commissioner Daniel Hall; on
13 the far end, our newest Commissioner, Commissioner
14 Scott Rupp.

15 The hearing will be transcribed
16 tonight so that the Commissioners who are not here
17 tonight will also be able to review the transcript.
18 We have a court reporter over here taking down
19 everything that's said.

20 I'll let the Commissioners at this
21 point make any opening greetings that they'd like.

22 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Thank you,
23 Judge. Again, my name is Bill Kenney. I'd like to
24 welcome you here. I appreciate the testimony that
25 you will give today or tonight. And on behalf of

1 our Chairman Robert Kenney and Commissioner Steve
2 Stoll, they will have the transcripts, and I know
3 both of them have attended at least one of the
4 other hearings that we've had this week. So we
5 appreciate your attendance.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Hall.

7 COMMISSIONER HALL: Good evening. I
8 wanted to welcome you to this local public hearing.
9 Thank you for coming and thank you for providing
10 testimony.

11 And I just want to make sure that
12 you're aware that we -- we on the Public Service
13 Commission take this part of the process very
14 seriously. We will be listening carefully tonight
15 and we will be taking your comments, thoughts,
16 words of wisdom into account when we render a
17 decision on this matter. So thank you very much.

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Rupp.

19 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Again,
20 Commissioner Scott Rupp. Welcome everybody here.
21 Echo my fellow Commissioners. We're here to
22 listen. We can ask you some questions to clarify
23 your comments, but we are not allowed to respond to
24 questions. We are here just to listen and take all
25 your comments when we look at the whole case in its

1 totality. Welcome.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. The
3 first procedure for tonight is we'll take entries
4 of appearance for the attorneys from the parties
5 just to establish which parties are represented
6 here, beginning with Noranda.

7 MS. ILES: Carole Iles and Diana
8 Vuylsteke from Noranda Aluminum and the individual
9 complainants, your Honor. We're with Bryan Cave,
10 LLP, 221 Bolivar Street, Jefferson City, Missouri
11 65102.

12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: For Ameren Missouri.

13 MR. MITTEN: Russ Mitten, Brydon,
14 Swearngen & England, 312 East Capitol Avenue,
15 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, appearing on behalf
16 of Union Electric Company, doing business as Ameren
17 Missouri.

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: For the Staff of the
19 Commission.

20 MR. THOMPSON: Kevin Thompson for the
21 Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission,
22 Post Office Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri
23 65102.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: For the Office of
25 Public Counsel.

1 MR. POSTON: Marc Poston for the
2 Office of the Public Counsel.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Is anyone else
4 represented who wants to enter an appearance?

5 (No response.)

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I don't see anyone
7 else. All right. The next step is to take the --
8 I'm sorry, sir.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Just a quick
10 question. If I signed the testimony list, I'm on
11 the list, I don't have to introduce myself at this
12 point, correct?

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: That's correct.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: The next step in the
16 process is that I will call the names of the people
17 who are on the list and we'll ask you to come up
18 here to the table and have a seat and I'll swear
19 you in to tell the truth, the whole truth and
20 nothing but the truth, and then I'll let you make
21 your statement. After you've made your statement,
22 then the Commissioners or myself may have questions
23 for you. So just wait there for a moment. And the
24 other parties may also have questions for you.

25 Then we'll get going. First name on

1 the list is Senator Dan Brown. Senator Brown.

2 Good evening, Senator.

3 SENATOR BROWN: Thank you.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your
5 right hand. I'll swear you in.

6 (Witness sworn.)

7 SENATOR BROWN: Thank you.

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: You what would you
9 like to tell us?

10 SENATOR BROWN: First of all, I want
11 to thank the Commissioners and the Judge for
12 allowing me to speak tonight. I'm Senator Dan
13 Brown. I represent District 16, which is in the
14 middle of Missouri. It's not in the Bootheel, but
15 I am concerned about electric rates for everyone,
16 and I'm certainly concerned about business the
17 survivability of businesses in Missouri.

18 I'll try to keep my comments as short
19 as possible because a lot of people have driven a
20 long ways to say their piece and make their case
21 and I respect that.

22 You know, and I as a -- as a consumer
23 and as a Senator, I understand that nobody wants to
24 pay higher electric rates, and I think that the --
25 from some of the comments that we've heard earlier

1 on, I think that rates of all Ameren customers very
2 well could go up if Noranda buys power from someone
3 else or if Noranda, in fact, would close the plant.

4 A lot of fixed costs by a business
5 are borne by some of the bigger users of that
6 business, and so -- and I don't know, and that's
7 your job, and I appreciate what you-all do, to try
8 to determine how much effect would this have.

9 And the other thing that bothers me
10 or concerns me immensely, I guess, as a State
11 Senator and also as a -- as a practicing
12 veterinarian, I still practice and I still work
13 every day when I'm not in Jefferson City, and cost
14 of electricity seems to be skyrocketing. We know
15 there's a lot of reasons for that. Part of it has
16 to do with some of Washington's misguided
17 direction, I think, but it truly is a big impact on
18 business.

19 I'm concerned that we would lose 900
20 jobs in southeast Missouri, even though that's not
21 my district. 900 jobs is a lot to Missouri. Oft
22 times as legislators and the government and many
23 people involved we're trying to attract and lure
24 new businesses to Missouri, and we offer a
25 tremendous amount of incentives on tax savings or

1 we just flat put money on the table.

2 And I as a State Senator feel that we
3 are not doing as good a job as we should to keep
4 the jobs that we have in Missouri. Those jobs are
5 stable. We know what it pays.

6 And do I think those 900 folks in the
7 Bootheel area in southeast Missouri, if Noranda did
8 shut down -- and cost of operations is a big deal.
9 And we heard from earlier testimony, they're paying
10 the second highest rate of all the nine smelters in
11 American today. If this rate goes through, I think
12 it puts them like fifth, kind of in the middle of
13 the pack.

14 And, you know, I know just enough
15 about aluminum production probably to be dangerous,
16 although I had a fair amount of chemistry. I know
17 that the big cost is energy, you know. You can
18 vary costs a little bit on what you pay people or
19 what the building is or whatever, but the -- as we
20 heard, \$160 million a year for electricity.

21 And so what do we do as a state or
22 what can we do -- and I think that's one of the
23 reasons this rate hearing is being held -- to help
24 at least keep these folks profitable? Noranda is a
25 large company. Part of it's in Missouri. I don't

1 want to lose that smelting opportunity. I don't
2 want to lose those jobs from Missouri because I
3 don't think there's another place for them to go.
4 I don't think those jobs will ever be replaced. To
5 me, that is a really big deal. We want more jobs
6 for Missouri, but for God's sake, let's not lose
7 the ones that we have.

8 And, you know, I can testify as a
9 State Senator that I think Noranda not only fights
10 rate cases -- and unfortunately this whole process
11 is adversarial. That is the nature of what we're
12 doing here.

13 And Noranda in fighting those rate
14 cases are also fighting for the consumer as well.
15 You know, low-income people, seniors, small
16 businesses and other industrials, they're fighting
17 those rate increases. So I'm thankful that they do
18 take that on. I'm thankful for what Ameren tries
19 to do to be more efficient.

20 So, you know, both groups here, as I
21 said, unfortunately, it's an adversarial
22 environment. That's how it works and I get it.

23 And I think in part of the
24 decision-making process, you know, we put a lot of
25 money on the table to get Ford Motor Company to

1 keep the plant in Kansas City. We offer a ton of
2 money for Boeing to build a wing of a new aircraft
3 in St. Louis, and let's do something to keep
4 businesses that we have here in Missouri.

5 And so to me personally, this
6 discussion is a lot about electric rates and the
7 effect that it may have on Missourians in general.
8 It's more than just a fight between Noranda and
9 Ameren.

10 In my district I'm constantly getting
11 phone calls from businesses that are discussing
12 closing. And recently I had a call from a group
13 that their main operation is in Oklahoma. They
14 bought a package deal, and one of the plants they
15 bought's in my district. It employs 155 people.
16 They make aircraft parts. Been very successful for
17 many years. This plant in my district has done a
18 fantastic job.

19 Well, the new owners six months into
20 this thing, I was like, what in the world is going
21 on here? They have almost an identical plant
22 employing 150-some people in Oklahoma. Their
23 utility costs in Oklahoma, the majority being
24 electric costs, is \$53,000 a month. The same plant
25 in Missouri, the majority of the costs for

1 utilities is electric, and it's not served by
2 Ameren, but their cost is \$183,000 a month.

3 And so this gentleman tells me, you
4 know, can you do anything to help? We're asking,
5 we're calling the city that has this great
6 industrial park. It's a very small town. They've
7 been able to have about 10 or 12 of these
8 businesses that employ around 155 people. In other
9 words, about all they've got.

10 And, you know, since I called and
11 said, someone's concerned about the electric rate,
12 they're concerned about natural gas rate -- and
13 neither one of those come from Ameren. This is a
14 different provider.

15 And they said, yeah, we know who
16 you're talking about. Well, they started naming
17 different companies. Nope, not them. Not them.
18 We go down about eight and I finally tell them who
19 it is, somebody else is concerned. All these
20 people are threatening to either cut back on
21 operations or close completely.

22 So a rate hearing case to me involves
23 the folks. I never want to -- as one of my
24 colleagues in the Senate, Senator Shoff, often
25 says, how does it affect the little lady down the

1 street? You know, is it going to be detrimental
2 for her? You have to realize, \$15 a month to some
3 folks that may be disabled or on a fixed income or
4 any cost that they incur, \$15 may be a really big
5 deal.

6 So I don't envy you your position,
7 but I do think that we must weigh what these jobs
8 mean to Missouri, what a manufacturing facility
9 means to Missouri. There's much more intelligent
10 people, much more legally trained than I am that
11 will -- that will talk maybe tonight and certainly
12 in the final case.

13 But I would ask you as a Commission
14 to please remember, these are jobs, these are
15 individuals, these are families that we're talking
16 about, on both sides of the issue for that matter.
17 But hopefully having a big customer that spends
18 that kind of money a year means a lot to a large
19 company that is a monopoly, that is highly
20 regulated, but maybe that does help a lot on fixed
21 costs.

22 I know in my small business as a
23 veterinarian, if I've got a customer that is really
24 a big customer, you know, I can afford to give them
25 a little break because he's paying the way for a

1 lot of other people.

2 So I do thank you. Oft times we know
3 when we talk about policy decisions in the Senate
4 and the House of Representatives, you know, it
5 comes around.

6 And to me, the last thing I want ever
7 to happen is for the legislative body to be setting
8 electric rates. We don't have the expertise. We
9 don't have the ability to do that. So I'm
10 extremely thankful to the Commission that will hear
11 people like me that some folks may say you don't
12 have a fight in the case in this whole battle, but
13 I do, because I think it does affect everyone in
14 the state of Missouri, even people that are not
15 Ameren's customers, people that don't work for
16 Noranda.

17 I think we have to be very careful
18 how we tread going forward because it appears we're
19 getting a reputation for having an extremely costly
20 electric rate in Missouri. And, you know, it is a
21 global market, and I get the fact that Noranda
22 can -- there's few fixed costs that they can
23 change, and they're -- and what they receive is not
24 market driven. In other words, it's set by a group
25 in London. So it is a commodity that they sell, so

1 they can't raise the cost.

2 I guess that's all I have to say
3 tonight, and hopefully other folks will do the
4 same.

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, Senator.

6 Any questions? Thank you.

7 SENATOR BROWN: Thank you.

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Representative John
9 Carpenter. Good evening. Please raise your right
10 hand.

11 (Witness sworn.)

12 REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER: I'd like
13 to start by thanking the Commission for letting me
14 come out and testify this evening.

15 I've had the pleasure of serving in
16 the State Legislature, and as the Senator
17 mentioned, one of the things that I ascribe to and
18 encourage my colleagues to keep in mind is how
19 these kind of public policies ultimately are going
20 to affect real people, because I think sometimes we
21 get caught up in sort of the partisan back and
22 forth and the arguing and bickering that sort of
23 forgets the people that we're supposed to be
24 representing.

25 I'm from the opposite side of the

1 state. I represent the North Kansas City area, the
2 city of Gladstone, Clay County, Missouri. So this
3 situation, while it doesn't impact my constituents
4 directly, I believe very strongly that the future
5 of Missouri requires people in our state to care
6 not just about our local constituents but to bear
7 in mind how public policy is going to affect
8 everyone.

9 So when I consider southeast
10 Missouri, as I think most people in this room know
11 but might not have seen firsthand, you know, we're
12 talking about one of the poorest regions in the
13 country, certainly the poorest region in the state
14 of Missouri, and we're talking about access to good
15 jobs that -- in my area, if one business goes out
16 of town, you know, it's not the end of the world.

17 Southeast Missouri struggles with
18 poverty and struggles with access to these kinds of
19 good, high-paying jobs. We're talking about 900
20 skilled jobs that give people a good paycheck to
21 where they can then go back into the economy. They
22 can buy cars. They can go to restaurants. They
23 keep the economy as good as it is.

24 You take that away and I just imagine
25 what that would be like. You know, up in my area

1 we've got Ford Motor Company. We've got Cerner
2 employs thousands of people, many of whom live in
3 my area. And if you consider the numbers on it, if
4 Ford and Cerner were to leave Clay County, that
5 would be devastating. Our area would be hit very
6 hard by that.

7 But if you look at the number, sort
8 of the ratio to the total economy of Kansas City,
9 of North Kansas City in particular, if those jobs
10 were to leave versus if Noranda were unable to be
11 competitive down in southeast Missouri, it actually
12 wouldn't even compare.

13 Southeast Missouri would get hit much
14 harder than would my area if we were to lose giants
15 like Ford and Cerner. Yet we go out of our way as
16 a state legislature to make sure that Ford and
17 Cerner are given the tools that they need to
18 continue to prosper in my area.

19 So I can't even imagine what it would
20 be like. I've had the opportunity on more than one
21 occasion now to tour the southeast corner of our
22 state, and, you know, you go down there and if you
23 really take the time to, you can see the poverty
24 that exists. You can see it in the faces of the
25 people. You can see it in the neighborhoods.

1 And this is just something that we
2 have to do, not just because of broad economic
3 development concerns and sort of the higher level
4 economic thinking, but this is something we have to
5 do for the people who live down there.

6 If the ask today were to make the
7 electric rate that Noranda pays the lowest in the
8 nation of all the aluminum smelters or something
9 like that, if the ask were so big that it seemed
10 unfair to me, then I wouldn't support it. But what
11 I see is that currently they're paying the second
12 highest the nine smelters in the country. That's
13 where we're at today. And even if we were to make
14 these changes, they would still be the fifth
15 highest in the country. So we're not talking about
16 going off the deep end in the other direction.

17 Balance is important here. I'm not
18 saying that you give a big corporation like Noranda
19 anything they ask for just to keep the jobs. But
20 what I think you have today is something that is a
21 reasonable ask, something that puts them in the
22 middle of the pack in terms of the electric rate
23 that they would ultimately end up paying.

24 And I think it's important for the
25 future of that are. I think it's important for the

1 future of the state. You know, I talked about
2 balance bit. Balance means when you have these
3 kinds of discussions in terms of electric rates,
4 you have to have the kind of push and pull that
5 goes on right now. You have to have consumer
6 groups and big consumers like Noranda, and I talked
7 about Ford Motor Company earlier, the big consumers
8 and everyday consumers like you and me have to be
9 able to push back on electric rate increases.

10 That kind of balance between the two,
11 between the utilities and between the consumers, is
12 healthy. It's good. It's good to have both sides
13 with enough voice to make sure that we end up at a
14 fair result for everybody.

15 And the other side of the equation if
16 Noranda leaves is not only do we lose a lot of jobs
17 and a lot of economic development in that part of
18 the state, I think we also lose a huge part of that
19 balance that exists in the State Legislature.

20 What I've found is that you have sort
21 of two sides on this issue, which is unfortunate,
22 but it is what it is, and you have right now a
23 place where the consumer groups and the big
24 consumers of electricity are able to have a voice,
25 and Noranda is a big part of that.

1 I think if they were to leave, I
2 think it would skew the balance and we would see
3 harm come from that as well.

4 So I'll end with just encouraging the
5 members of the Commission to bear in mind that a
6 lot is on the line here. We're talking about
7 billions of dollars of economic activity over the
8 next decade down in southeast Missouri, and it's
9 billions of dollars in an area that needs it more
10 than any other in this state and more than the rest
11 of the country.

12 So with that, I encourage us to do
13 the right thing, and would be happy to answer any
14 questions.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?

16 Thank you, Senator.

17 Representative Chris Kelly. Good
18 evening.

19 REPRESENTATIVE KELLY: Howdy.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your
21 right hand.

22 (Witness sworn.)

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much.

24 REPRESENTATIVE KELLY: But I have to
25 say, this telling the truth is going to be a whole

1 new experience.

2 (Laughter.)

3 REPRESENTATIVE KELLY: Senator Brown
4 said that he was sorry that this was an adversarial
5 proceeding. Thank God it's an adversarial
6 proceeding. That's how we get to sensible
7 decisions.

8 I cannot conceive of a more damning
9 indictment of our educational system than the fact
10 that we are even having this discussion. The
11 Public Service Commission is being asked to perform
12 an essentially legislative function. That is to
13 grant large subsidies.

14 If my two friends from Kansas City
15 and from Rolla think that the Legislature should
16 subsidize a given industry, then they should
17 introduce legislation to subsidize that industry.

18 To ask you to do so is to, in my
19 opinion, to pervert the entire purpose of the
20 Commission. My understanding of the Commission
21 over a long period of time is that the Commission
22 is supposed to regulate the cost and the delivery
23 of, in this case, electrical power based on the
24 cost to produce and the cost to deliver and a
25 reasonable margin of profit, not to enter into

1 social engineering and economic engineering, which
2 is precisely what you're being asked to do today.

3 If this is successful, then there is
4 no reasonable argument for an unelected commission
5 because you become totally political actors. The
6 lobbying that will occur if this is successful is
7 absolutely overwhelming and open-ended.

8 I can make an argument at least as
9 good as Noranda's for virtually every single
10 conceivable group of utility customers. For
11 instance, people in North St. Louis should pay less
12 than -- because they live closer together than
13 people who live in McMansions of Ladue. Costs more
14 to deliver power in Ladue because you've got more
15 infrastructure. I could make another argument for
16 Ladue versus North St. Louis. You should charge
17 less for power delivered in the City of St. Louis
18 than in the little towns because of the
19 infrastructure cost. It's closer together.

20 You can make an argument, a social
21 engineering argument for virtually every single --
22 why not veterans? We would not even be here to
23 have this discussion were it not for the sacrifice
24 of our veterans. I believe that if the Commission
25 is going to get into social engineering, the place

1 to start with would certainly be veterans.

2 For you to open this door I think
3 is -- the people asking you to do it demonstrate a
4 woeful lack of knowledge of what is a legislative
5 function and what is a commission function. We
6 regularly -- and I often have participated in, as
7 the Senator says, flat putting money on the table
8 for this industry or that to keep them in the state
9 of Missouri. That's not your business. That's our
10 business.

11 For many years I've resisted
12 legislation which intruded into the regulatory
13 function of the Commission, not because I
14 necessarily thought the goal of it was a bad idea,
15 but because you have a job and we have a job.

16 If you are comfortable entering into
17 our sphere of influence to this degree, then do not
18 be surprised when our friends in the Legislature
19 enter into -- there remains no argument for the
20 Legislature not to pass every year myriad of bills
21 talking about how you should change in order to
22 reward this group or punish that group.

23 If the Legislature believes it should
24 do that, let the Legislature do that. Why don't
25 they do it? Because we don't have enough money,

1 and thank God we don't. You guys can get to a
2 whole lot of money and you can get to money that's
3 invisible because it's a tiny bit from each
4 ratepayer and you can take it to subsidize one
5 industry or another because you tend to be more
6 invisible. Your process tends to be more
7 invisible. I'm not critical of it for that reason.
8 I'm just saying that is fact.

9 I, for instance, I'm a pretty well
10 informed guy, and I did not remember that the
11 Senator Kenney was on the Commission. If I don't
12 know who's on the Commission, 99 percent of my
13 constituents don't. And yet they do know where we
14 are. They can get ahold of us and say, I want you
15 to be for or against this subsidy for this industry
16 or that industry.

17 For you to start down that road I
18 think is tragic and is a disaster and is a
19 perversion of the roles of the two institutions.

20 I'll be pleased to yield to any
21 questions.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?

23 Thank you.

24 REPRESENTATIVE KELLY: Thank you very
25 much.

1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Jeanette Mott

2 Oxford. Good evening.

3 MS. OXFORD: Good evening.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your
5 right hand.

6 (Witness sworn.)

7 MS. OXFORD: Well, thank you, Judge
8 and Commissioners, for this opportunity to speak
9 with you tonight.

10 A lot of the focus as I've read media
11 accounts of what's gone on this week and certainly
12 previous weeks has been on sort of the battle of
13 the titans, and I guess we do like to get into all
14 kinds of sports analogies about politics, but I
15 think that puts the focus on the wrong place.

16 I urge you to put the focus on the
17 overearnings complaint. I'd like to go back to
18 summer of 2012 when I testified at Harris-Stowe
19 University at a hearing about raising Ameren's
20 rates, and at that hearing you were being asked to
21 grant the ability to pursue a profit of over
22 10 percent.

23 And I reminded folks that not long
24 before that workers across the United States had
25 gone ten years without a raise in the minimum wage,

1 and a lot of our older folks had lost an incredible
2 amount of their retirement savings through a lot of
3 shenanigans on Wall Street. And wages had really
4 been stagnant, not just for minimum wage workers
5 but for all workers.

6 And the idea of gaining even 1 or 2
7 percent more for incomes was out of reach for most
8 Missourians at a time when a monopoly utility was
9 asking for the right to pursue more than 10 percent
10 increase or 10 percent profit. In the end, a
11 little less than 10 percent was granted as the
12 amount of profit that Ameren could go after.

13 And I think it's really important to
14 look at a complaint that earnings have been over
15 11 percent and think how that affects people in our
16 state when -- when they're paying more than they
17 ought to be paying for utilities.

18 One out of five non-elderly
19 households in Missouri has earnings of less than
20 \$17,000 a year, and 60 percent of Missouri
21 households have less than \$50,000 a year of
22 earnings. Paying for essentials like food and
23 medicine and housing and utilities and
24 transportation to and from work is not easy for
25 these families. So it's really important that we

1 hold utility bills down as low as we can. When
2 folks can't afford their utilities, there are
3 really disastrous consequences in their lives.

4 When I was a State Representative, I
5 represented a district in St. Louis City, and the
6 teachers in the St. Louis Public Schools, St. Louis
7 Public Schools of course being vilified so often in
8 legislative debate and the media and all kinds of
9 conversations, but I knew of so many teachers who
10 work so hard to try to help kids make it, and they
11 would tell me that the biggest block that they had
12 to children succeeding was how often those children
13 moved, the transience of the families.

14 And so often utility disconnection
15 has everything to do with that. Often families
16 move after utility disconnection to look for just
17 cheaper rent so that hopefully they can keep the
18 power on next time, or they -- sometimes they're
19 even trying to put the power in somebody else's
20 name by changing to a new address to avoid
21 reconnect fees, which is the punishment for not
22 having enough money to pay your utility bills.
23 You're penalized for that.

24 It's just really a serious matter
25 when a monopoly utility company overeans. That

1 part should be taken very, very seriously. So we
2 urge you to look at that.

3 Missouri Association for Social
4 Welfare is where I work now. We're a longstanding
5 citizens advocacy group since 1901. We basically
6 stand for basic human needs and basic fairness. We
7 don't take the position on how much the rate should
8 be for Noranda. We ask you to assess that very
9 carefully and to charge them a reasonable rate.

10 We do know that there have been some
11 legislative proposals that would advantage monopoly
12 utility companies that Noranda has helped us fight,
13 and since we represent a lot of folks who live on
14 like \$721 a month of SSI and are really struggling
15 to make it, we know that the voices of those
16 consumers have been magnified by Noranda fighting
17 things like infrastructure rate surcharges,
18 infrastructure systems rate surcharges, the ISRS
19 bills and things like that.

20 So we really appreciate the advocacy
21 that they've done along our side on some things
22 that we really think are unfair ratemaking. But do
23 we want anybody to have some type of undue
24 political power because they're a large company?
25 We don't. We kind of wish at the federal level

1 some legislation would be passed that would see
2 that companies don't play one state off another and
3 one municipality off another. We wouldn't have
4 that, you know, Kansas/Missouri kind of war thing
5 that we've been having. We wish that that was off
6 the table.

7 But it's the overearnings part that
8 we think that the focus should be on here because
9 that's really impacting on the lives of Missouri
10 citizens, many of whom work really, really hard for
11 wages that don't cover basic human needs. So,
12 therefore, paying even a few dollars more than is
13 the right amount, the fair amount for the utility
14 has consequences in terms of the rest of their
15 lives, whether it's housing stability, whether it's
16 being able to afford prescriptions.

17 One out of four families with
18 children in this state are food insecure, meaning
19 it's a fancy word these days for being hungry. And
20 when people are malnourished, they get sick faster
21 and they stay sick longer. It has real
22 consequences in people's lives.

23 So we ask you to put the focus on the
24 overearnings part here. That's the complaint that
25 we think is the very important one, and that you

1 study this very carefully. Monopoly utility
2 companies already have a lot of advantages, and
3 they don't need to be granted even more advantages
4 in our opinion.

5 So I'd welcome any questions you
6 might have.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?

8 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Thank you,
9 Representative. I just want to clarify. Are you
10 testifying on behalf of Missourians for Social
11 Welfare or just on yourself?

12 MS. OXFORD: I'm testifying as
13 executive director of Missouri Association for
14 Social Welfare, on their behalf, that we believe
15 the real concern here is overearnings and ask you
16 to put a lot of focus on that.

17 COMMISSIONER RUPP: All right. Thank
18 you.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you,
20 Ms. Oxford.

21 All right. In looking over the list
22 of names that have signed up, I see some familiar
23 faces again and familiar names, people that have
24 testified at the last two hearings. You're welcome
25 to testify again tonight, but I will ask the people

1 who have not testified before to testify first. So

2 let's go to Harry Cooper. Good evening, sir.

3 MR. COOPER: Good evening.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your

5 right hand.

6 (Witness sworn.)

7 MR. COOPER: My name is Harvey

8 Cooper. I'm the executive director at Community

9 Sheltered Workshop in Sikeston. We're right in the

10 middle of this fray, and I have been associated

11 with the workshop for 34 years.

12 In that time frame, I keep hearing

13 Noranda's going to lose 900 jobs. And, quite

14 frankly, I would like to correct that. They're

15 going to lose 125 more on top of that, because if

16 Noranda goes down, we go down. And I represent 125

17 people that have developmental challenges, and we

18 have been doing business with Noranda for 30 years

19 and have had that type of a long relationship with

20 them.

21 When Noranda came up ten years ago

22 and the Senate subcommittee met, I testified at

23 that time, and later I assume that same Senate

24 subcommittee decided to give Noranda the right to

25 go out and shop for their electric. I realize

1 Ameren was not part of that at that time. Someone
2 else was taking care of their electric.

3 But, you know, there was a battle
4 over that at that time to keep them from going out
5 and shopping that electric. And guess what, it was
6 because they could find a better deal, and they
7 did. Now, things change, and I realize that.

8 But, you know, when I give a bid in
9 the business that I have, which is assembly,
10 packaging and pallet production, and we build
11 pallets all the time for Noranda, but when I give a
12 bid to someone for pallet production, the first
13 thing I ask them is, what is the volume going to
14 be? How many pallets are we talking about? And
15 when they tell me that, I can look at that and say,
16 okay, I can make an exception on the pricing.

17 And to me, quite frankly, it seems
18 like Noranda being the second highest payer for
19 electric in the state should give them some degree
20 of exception there. It does my customers and it
21 does anyone else's, anybody will take volume over
22 price as long as they have plenty of volume, and
23 that keeps people working.

24 And, you know, we are -- we're just
25 not seeming to be concerned enough about keeping

1 jobs in this great state. If we allow ourself to
2 slip into -- by losing a company like Noranda, if
3 we allow ourself to slip into becoming north
4 Arkansas, then something's wrong there. And that's
5 what exactly would happen. Take a look at the
6 neighborhoods. Take a look at the communities.
7 See what losing all those jobs is going to make and
8 the differences that it will make in their ability
9 to provide medical care, you know, to spend money
10 in the community, as someone else has said, buy
11 cars, clothing, whatever, provide better education
12 for their kids. Those are things we're going to
13 lose.

14 And if we don't do something to keep
15 those jobs from leaving, quite frankly, it really
16 puts me in awe that the Commission would have the
17 kind of power to decimate a whole area of the state
18 down there.

19 And, you know, I know these hearings
20 are meant to hear comments, and I respect that.
21 But, you know, use that power that you have very,
22 very sparingly because, you know, there's always
23 room for give one way or the other, but, you know,
24 nobody ever asks for everything and gets
25 everything. They just don't do it. And so use

1 that power that you have very, very sparingly.

2 And you know, truthfully, I think
3 that it may go back to a Senate or to a legislative
4 process. And I realize the legislators don't want
5 any part of it, but it may just come back to that,
6 that they have to either get up and get with the
7 heat or get out of the kitchen.

8 And so, you know, I respect you all
9 for your time, and I thank you for allowing me to
10 come and talk with you. As I said, I represent 125
11 people that I certainly do not want to see lose
12 their jobs or close, you know. We've been doing
13 this for a long time.

14 Thank you very much. I appreciate
15 your time.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Any
17 questions? Thank you.

18 J.D. McClard. Good evening. Please
19 raise your right hand.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 MCCLARD: You may be seated. Tell us
22 what you'd like to tell us.

23 MCCLARD: I have sat here this
24 evening listening to a lot of comments. One
25 comment was made by a distinguished gentleman who

1 stated that the Legislature, that you were doing
2 the job of the Legislature. My question was, then
3 why hasn't the Legislature done their job?

4 Also, another thing that I noticed
5 was the average income was at \$17,000 a year.
6 Of that 17,000, you have 900 employees who will
7 average 48,000 and up. Now, you can do the math
8 very simply. If those 900 people lose their job at
9 their annual average income, what does that do to
10 the rest of the community? That \$17,000 average
11 now goes down.

12 I as well as Mr. Cooper represent the
13 Sheltered Workshop in the southeast area. It's not
14 just 900 jobs that would be lost. It's not just
15 the 900 from Noranda plus another 125 from the
16 workshop that would be lost.

17 There's going to be a whole lot more
18 people lose their jobs than you can even realize if
19 you'll look at the numbers patiently, steadily,
20 without jumping to any conclusion and allow the
21 numbers to lead you to that conclusion.

22 If that was your district, would you
23 like to see the annual average income decrease
24 dramatically for yourself? That's all I have to
25 say. Thank you.

1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Any
2 questions? This is Mr. McClard.

3 MCCLARD: J.D. McClard.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Jim
5 Schmitz. Good evening. Please raise your right
6 hand.

7 (Witness sworn.)

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

9 MR. SCHMITZ: Good evening. Just for
10 the record, I'm an Ameren employee. My name is Jim
11 Schmitz, and I'm not here as an Ameren employee.
12 I'm here as a small business owner. My wife owns a
13 small business here in central Missouri.

14 What I would like to do is I'd like
15 to combine all small businesses in Missouri, and
16 let's define a small business, and I'm talking
17 about a truly small business, as one that grosses
18 less than 500,000 per year, which my wife grosses
19 considerably less than that.

20 Now, if you combine all those
21 businesses in Missouri, I'm sure you could come up
22 with significantly more than 900 employees that
23 Noranda has. Could we collectively file for rate
24 shift for say 30 percent of our electric usage to
25 put it on Noranda's rates? Would the Missouri

1 Public Service Commission even consider a proposal
2 like this? Would Noranda even stand for a proposal
3 like this?

4 Shifting more burden to small
5 businesses like these might be the tipping point
6 between staying in business and not. How can you
7 justify or how can Noranda ethically justify
8 putting small businesses out of work just to pay
9 the cost of their CEO to make more in bonuses than
10 these small businesses make collectively in
11 profits?

12 Thank you for hearing me.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?

14 Thank you.

15 Doug Mertins. Good evening, sir.

16 Please raise your right hand.

17 (Witness sworn.)

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

19 MR. MERTINS: My name is Doug Mertins
20 with Mertins Construction Company. I'm a resident
21 of Fulton, Missouri. I'm here to speak against the
22 Noranda proposal. I want to, I guess, further the
23 Chris Kelly comments in regard to the economic
24 development aspect of this.

25 I totally agree with the importance

1 of jobs in the area. I agree with the importance
2 of jobs in Missouri, and that's why I believe this
3 is more of a legislative matter. I'm not sure
4 exactly where we're going with this in a slippery
5 slope.

6 If this is the path we're going, do
7 we get to come back and ask for rate decreases or
8 special incentive rates at any time that an
9 opportunity for jobs or the chance for a loss of
10 jobs is there?

11 Also, we employ 70 to 80 people year
12 round, and the rate shift would impact my
13 production cost, my employee wages or impact their
14 particular jobs. So I do not understand exactly
15 why this has turned into a rate issue, more as a
16 state economic development and legislative matter.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Any
18 questions? Thank you.

19 Mary Starnes. Good evening.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 MR. YOUNG: I'm actually going to
22 read a letter from Barry Aycock. I'm a friend of
23 Barry Aycock's, and he's under the weather, lost
24 his voice, so he wasn't able to come testify today.

25 I'm actually here twofold. First and

1 foremost, my husband has been employed with Noranda
2 for 25 years, and it's not just him. It's his
3 family, three generations. Without Noranda being
4 there, this family's going to separate. They're
5 going to go everywhere. They're not going to be
6 able to stay together. I mean, that is a very,
7 very important aspect to think about.

8 So from Barry Aycock's letter, Dear
9 Commissioners: As a small business owner operating
10 throughout southeast Missouri, I write you today to
11 request that you grant the electric rate reduction
12 requested by Noranda Aluminum to ensure the
13 continued operation and employment of 900
14 hard-working families of the Bootheel.

15 I am the CEO of AgXplore, an
16 agricultural supply, consulting and chemical
17 company. Our primary operations center is located
18 in Parma, Missouri in eastern New Madrid County.
19 We serve over 3,000 customers and have 50 full-time
20 employees.

21 For 47 years Noranda Aluminum has
22 provided countless numbers of my neighbors and
23 friends with excellent long-term careers paying
24 high wages. In addition, countless numbers of
25 other businesses in this region either rely on the

1 patronage of Noranda employees or supply goods and
2 services for the operation of the smelter.

3 As a business owner myself, I am
4 keenly aware of the economic and business
5 environment of southeast Missouri. Simply stated,
6 our region's economic health cannot survive the
7 loss of these 900 good-paying jobs. The economic
8 devastation will not be limited to New Madrid.
9 Rather, it will carry with it disastrous
10 ramifications throughout southeast Missouri.

11 Being a business owner that has 50
12 families depending on continued operations, I have
13 to be very mindful of the impact of rising overhead
14 costs has on my ability to make payroll every week.

15 In consideration that Noranda's
16 overhead expense for electric has increased \$44
17 million per year since 2008, it is easy to
18 understand why Noranda has posted a \$16.8 million
19 loss in the first quarter of 2014. Noranda cannot
20 continue operations under the current conditions.
21 Southeast Missouri and 900 families cannot survive
22 without Noranda.

23 It is for these and many more reasons
24 that I respectfully request that the Public Service
25 Commission grant Noranda Aluminum their requested

1 electric rate reduction. Respectfully, Barry
2 Aycock, CEO AgXplore.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?

4 Thank you.

5 Kevin Doerr. Good evening. Please
6 raise your right hand.

7 (Witness sworn.)

8 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

9 MR. DOERR: Good evening, Commission.

10 I thank you for your time. I'm a business owner, a
11 machine shop and manufacturing business, and I'm
12 not a professional speaker.

13 But just the literature I was handed
14 out there, they say Ameren is a monopoly. Me being
15 a machine shop owner and the general manager,
16 whatever you want to call it, I think that Noranda
17 could be a -- or they are a monopoly. How many
18 smelter plants were there? 30-some-odd? Now
19 they're down to nine.

20 Manufacturing has been up for the
21 last three years. We've had three record years.
22 We're using a lot of aluminum. If they went from
23 30-some-odd smelter plants to 9, it seems to me
24 like they can just name their price on the aluminum
25 right now.

1 And that -- that's the way I'm
2 looking at it. Just the stories I've heard, you
3 know, I've heard a lot of people for Noranda. But
4 you know, my business versus Noranda's, it's the
5 same thing. If Noranda gets what they want, then I
6 don't get what I want. I'm going to get -- my
7 rates are going to raise because the small
8 businessman is going to have to pay for the -- what
9 they're getting the reduced rate.

10 And what's that going to do to my
11 business and all the other 900-some-odd thousand
12 small businesses in the state of Missouri? If
13 Noranda gets what they want, we've got to get --
14 our rates will be raised. So there's more than 900
15 employees that are going to be let go there. It's
16 just a smaller version, KD machine versus Noranda.

17 You know, I just got done reading in
18 Success Magazine Jack Welch with GE, you know. He
19 went with -- and I'm not trying to cut back and
20 tell the Noranda employees they're going to lose
21 their job, but when Jack Welch took over, he
22 tightened the belt, you know.

23 I heard it mentioned that the CEO of
24 Ameren is making \$6 million. I haven't heard what
25 the CEO of Noranda is making. Has Noranda

1 employees looked at the CEO, what he's making,
2 maybe thought about him maybe tightening his belt,
3 cut back wages there in upper management and see if
4 that would help?

5 It's -- I think they can come to a
6 conclusion here where it's a win/win situation for
7 both Ameren and Noranda. You know, we're all going
8 to suffer from this. So I'm for Ameren. I don't
9 think they ought to give in, you know. And for the
10 Commission, I don't think they ought to give in.

11 I believe Ameren is doing their best.
12 Every time you turn on the news the electric
13 utility business is getting hammered. Right now in
14 my county, Franklin County, we're getting -- they
15 have to do something with an ash pond.

16 They're not going to give that labor
17 away to build that ash pond or whatever they're
18 going to do there. That's going to cost Ameren
19 a big chunk of change, and there goes some of their
20 rates -- there goes some of their money for
21 building that ash pond or whatever they have to do
22 there.

23 So in the long run, I think -- I
24 think they can come to a happy medium, Ameren and
25 Noranda, and work this thing out, and I hope you

1 guys are able to look at it. I thank you for your
2 time.

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?

4 Thank you.

5 Donald Bowman. Mr. Bowman? Mary Jo

6 Robinson. Don Hellmann. Good evening, sir.

7 Please raise your right hand.

8 (Witness sworn.)

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

10 MR. HELLMANN: Thank you for the

11 opportunity to speak. I'd like to give you a

12 little different perspective. I am a member of the

13 management team of an original equipment

14 manufacturer located in New Haven, Missouri, and we

15 serve directly the automotive industry. We make --

16 manufacture rubber extruded seals.

17 We operate in a very, very

18 competitive market, a global market to the nth

19 degree. We even compete with plants within our own

20 company located in Mexico, and being the lowest

21 cost producer is absolutely critical to the success

22 of our business.

23 We recently, through the efforts that

24 we have made to keep our costs down, we were able

25 to come very close to doubling our work force,

1 which went from about 210 direct labor workers to
2 about 420. We now employ a total of 560 workers in
3 the New Haven plant.

4 Our market is such that when we quote
5 jobs to the automotive industry, we actually have
6 to quote long-term contracts where our prices
7 actually have to decrease each and every year.
8 Those decreases range anywhere from 2 to 3 percent
9 per year, usually for a period of three to five
10 years.

11 So right away we are faced with, in
12 order to sustain ourselves, to be able to offset
13 those costs, in these cases costs really being
14 price decreases. We also have to be able to absorb
15 and offset wage and health benefit economics.

16 So our position from my company is,
17 hearing what I've heard here, and I understand the
18 situation with Noranda, a business just like ours,
19 but if you guys would approve this request, our
20 electrical rates will increase to the tune of about
21 \$400,000 over the next ten years. That's an added
22 cost increase that we have to find somehow some way
23 to offset.

24 As it is, it's very, very
25 challenging. We compete globally, some very, very

1 tough competitors that we have, and it's just very
2 critical that we maintain a very low cost basis.
3 We have 565 employees in our New Haven plant.
4 Those jobs would be at risk, certainly at risk if
5 we have this shift in cost.

6 I thank you for your time.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Questions? Thanks.

8 MR. HELLMANN: Thank you.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Kym Guerrero. Kym
10 Guerrero? Robert Haslag. Let me swear you in
11 first here. Please raise your right hand.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

14 MR. HASLAG: First of all, I would
15 like to express my sincere appreciation to the
16 Public Service Commission for this opportunity to
17 offer testimony.

18 Also, with all due respect, as I
19 review the current struggle between two corporate
20 behemoths and their corporate allies as they argue
21 over which will achieve the greatest advantage at
22 the expense of Missouri citizens, I must admit a
23 certain level of dismay.

24 Ameren with a record of 43 percent in
25 increased charges to its customers in six years and

1 profits allegedly exceeding a margin defined by
2 this PSC by \$100 million and requesting another
3 \$270 million in charges to be assessed against our
4 citizens sits in one corner.

5 Noranda, an aluminum smelter in
6 southeast Missouri, having received a price
7 advantage in its megawatt charge available to no
8 other citizen or business in Missouri, is asking
9 for massive additional relief because the hedge
10 fund, Apollo Holding Company, which heavily
11 invested in its operations, controls a third of its
12 board, occupies the CEO position and has been
13 taking excessive profits from Noranda's operations,
14 plus placing the smelter in difficult
15 circumstances, sits in the other corner.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Sir, I think you're
17 a little bit -- you're a little bit too close to
18 the microphone.

19 MR. HASLAG: Sits in the other
20 corner.

21 The first thing that occurs to me is
22 that Noranda's decision to sleep with the devil is
23 its own and, therefore, it has little room to
24 complain because the hedge fund does what hedge
25 funds do.

1 Conversely, Ameren is a government
2 authorized monopoly and, therefore, is essentially
3 exempt from competition. It seems that the one
4 participant in this struggle who is receiving short
5 shrift is the public.

6 With all due humility, the PSC is the
7 Public Service Commission. It is not the AGMPC,
8 the Ameren Guaranteed Maximum Profits Commission.
9 Nor is it the NPSC, the Noranda Protection from
10 Stupidity Commission.

11 And I would like to digress at this
12 point. I recognize the valued labor that all of
13 the people who work for that company, for Noranda
14 do, but I doubt seriously if they were sitting in
15 any of the negotiations between Noranda and Apollo
16 Holding when the terms of the deal was arranged.

17 Simply, from a citizen's perspective,
18 two major corporations, both receiving more than
19 adequate public assistance, are conducting a civil
20 war between themselves, and the loser in either
21 case will be the average consumer who will be
22 required to provide the funds to Ameren should
23 Noranda succeed or, in the alternative, will still
24 be required to provide 270 million in additional
25 funds to Ameren regardless of the 100 million in

1 excess profits already accrued to Ameren if Ameren
2 succeeds.

3 Either alternative on its face seems
4 to be a cruel hoax upon citizens essentially paying
5 the bills for both potential outcomes.

6 I would also note that Ameren has won
7 in the Legislature this term an escape from the
8 renewable fuels mandate Missouri voters approved
9 previously, a victory which only further
10 exacerbates our ability to divest ourselves from
11 carbon-based fuels alone.

12 And finally, if I may be permitted to
13 respectfully offer an alternative. First, I would
14 recommend no granting of any increase to Ameren of
15 any kind unless they subtract the 100 million in
16 excess profits they have already achieved.

17 Second, I would insist upon full
18 compliance by Ameren to the spirit of what Missouri
19 voters approved when supporting the renewable fuels
20 mandates.

21 As for Noranda, if the cost of
22 electricity is a primary concern for their
23 operation and the company cannot convince its hedge
24 fund owners to exercise a little more discretion in
25 their effort to confiscate as much in profits as

1 possible from the operations, may I humbly suggest
2 that they consider investing in solar and wind as
3 auxiliary power sources and remove themselves from
4 the Ameren grid, thus relieving themselves of the
5 self-defined excess charges now accruing to Ameren.

6 In other words, I suggest that both
7 stop whining and do their best to refrain from
8 attempting to obtain the much maligned free stuff
9 of which the poorer citizens among us are regularly
10 convicted in our political discourse.

11 The Public Service Commission must
12 recognize that its first responsibility is to the
13 citizenry who cannot afford to contribute thousands
14 to a legislator, nor to these two economic titans
15 who can and do.

16 Thank you very much.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you,
18 Mr. Haslag. You handed a copy of that to the court
19 reporter. We don't require that.

20 MR. HASLAG: I understand that, sir,
21 but I always do that just as a courtesy.

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: We'll go ahead and
23 mark it as Exhibit 1 and it will be received into
24 the record.

25 (EXHIBIT NO. 1 WAS MARKED AND

1 RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.)

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?

3 Thank you, sir.

4 Nathan Lepper. Please raise your
5 right hand.

6 (Witness sworn.)

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

8 MR. LEPPER: I'd like to thank the
9 Commission for the opportunity to speak tonight.
10 My name is Nathan Lepper. I'm the operations
11 manager at AZZ, Inc. located in Fulton, Missouri.
12 We build electrical substations used for generation
13 and transmission, distribution of power to the
14 grid.

15 AZZ has already submitted an e-mail
16 to the Commission with our concerns and our --
17 stating our support of Ameren, but I want to speak
18 here tonight about a couple other things.

19 First, as a Missouri-based business,
20 we wish to see our rates remain consistent, seeing
21 normal increase associated with the cost of doing
22 business. Increased operating costs affect our
23 operating income just like any other business.

24 Second, as a supplier to Ameren, we
25 would want to see our customer and local customer

1 base remain viable and capable of purchasing our
2 products. Our facility has been in business for
3 over 40 years, and we would like to see another 40
4 years here in mid Missouri.

5 Finally, as a Missouri-based company,
6 again, we wish to see our 200 employees maintain
7 their lifestyle and keep their cost of living
8 expenses as low as possible, not pay additional
9 rate increases that are unwarranted.

10 So thank you for your time.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

12 Thank you.

13 Tim Schwarz.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

16 MR. SCHWARZ: I'd like to thank the
17 Commission. My name is Tim Schwarz. I am an
18 attorney. I represent the Missouri Retailers
19 Association in both cases. We have no witnesses in
20 the cases. And David Overfelt, who's the executive
21 director for the Missouri Retailers Association,
22 couldn't be here tonight and directed me to appear,
23 and so I am.

24 The MRA supports Noranda's position
25 in both cases. We believe that the continued

1 existence of a single customer that has the
2 economic interest, the wherewithal and the
3 commitment to represent consumer interests both
4 before this body and the Legislature is extremely,
5 extremely important.

6 Particularly at a time when the
7 funding for the consumer representative, the Office
8 of the Public Counsel, is diminished, the presence
9 of a significant consumer advocate here and in the
10 Legislature is very important.

11 There is no free lunch, however. We
12 understand -- we would certainly prefer that
13 Noranda pay its fully distributed cost of service,
14 but at \$30 a megawatt hour, it will still be making
15 a considerable, substantial contribution to the
16 fixed costs of Ameren's system.

17 So we are four square behind
18 Noranda's position in that regard. Needless to
19 say, we also support the position of the
20 complainants in the overearnings case, although
21 this is a -- I've worked with the Commission for a
22 long time. I don't know that anyone has seen an
23 actual customer rate complaint before the
24 Commission and certainly not one where you could
25 reasonably predict that the rates would be in

1 effect for probably less than a year. That is,
2 once Ameren files its rate increase case, a case in
3 which Ameren will have considerably larger plant in
4 service than it has now, but that will be a
5 different case, different specs, different
6 evidence, different circumstances.

7 But consumers are entitled to avail
8 themselves of the complaint process the General
9 Assembly established in 1913, and even if it's only
10 for a period of eight to ten months, we believe
11 that the Commission should weigh the evidence in
12 that case and, if appropriate, reduce customers'
13 rates even for that short and defined period.

14 Thank you.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

16 Questions? Thank you.

17 Michelle Fayette.

18 (Witness sworn.)

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And,
20 Ms. Fayette, you have testified at the last two
21 hearings as well.

22 MS. FAYETTE: I have.

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And so, of course,
24 you don't need to repeat what you said before.
25 It's already in the record.

1 MS. FAYETTE: All right. Thank you.

2 I will be very brief. I do have new information to
3 share tonight.

4 I thank you for allowing me to come
5 for the third time. I do believe there is power in
6 spoken word. I am from southeast Missouri, and
7 this is very important to us and our region.

8 One of the final things, as you know,
9 I'm the executive director of the Kenny Rogers
10 Children's Center, which is an outpatient pediatric
11 therapy center providing physical, occupational and
12 speech therapy to about 500 kids in southeast
13 Missouri. We've provided that service for over 40
14 years at no charge.

15 Kids in our area, a lot of times --
16 they have to go to the doctors. They have to have
17 meds. They have to have special equipment. A lot
18 of times therapy is one of the areas that the
19 families may say, you know, we can't afford that.
20 So its -- we're very fortunate that we're able to
21 provide that service at no charge.

22 The additional information that I
23 wanted to share with you tonight is that there are
24 114 counties in the state of Missouri. New Madrid
25 County falls at 99 composite in that rank.

1 Also, there's a very high rate of low
2 birth weights, and with the low birth weights,
3 Pemiscot, New Madrid, Mississippi, Dunklin and
4 Ripley are all in the top ten counties listed in
5 that.

6 The percentage of preterm birth rate,
7 Pemiscot, Ripley, Butler, Dunklin, New Madrid and
8 Mississippi Counties are also listed in that rate.

9 And infant mortality rate, none of
10 the counties in southeast Missouri are listed in
11 the top 10, but they are certainly in the top 14.
12 I would be glad to leave this information with you.

13 Again, with the withdrawal of Noranda
14 from southeast Missouri, you can only imagine that
15 those rates would continue to increase with health
16 care becoming even more hard for these people to
17 find.

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Go ahead and give
19 the copies to the court reporter. We'll mark the
20 whole packet of them as Exhibit 2, and they will be
21 received into the record.

22 (EXHIBIT NO. 2 WAS MARKED AND
23 RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.)

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Neil Priggel. Hello
25 again, Mr. Priggel.

1 MR. PRIGGEL: How are you, sir?

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your
3 right hand.

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

6 MR. PRIGGEL: I would like to
7 thank -- I would like to thank the Commission for
8 setting up this public forum to allow our comments
9 tonight. I've testified the last two nights, and I
10 would like to portray and go over how important
11 Noranda is to the region, and I do have some
12 additional information that I did not put in last
13 night.

14 My name is Neil Priggel. I've been
15 employed by Noranda Aluminum for 19 years. I'm a
16 lifelong resident of Portageville, other than a
17 time that I went to the University of Missouri and
18 received my engineering degree. I returned back to
19 the area, and I've worked as an engineer at the
20 plant.

21 There's five points that I'd like to
22 try to talk about tonight, and one is the creation
23 of jobs. No. 1 is vision, to give you a little
24 history on the plant and the vision that it took to
25 bring Noranda Aluminum to southeast Missouri.

1 I'd like to tell you about the vision
2 of a man that was able to transform a whole region.
3 In the 1960s the Bootheel area was mostly farming.
4 Technology was progressing slowly and moving the
5 need for farm labor. There was a local small town
6 banker by the name of Sam Hunter that realized that
7 we had to have some type of manufacturing.

8 He took a year off from banking to
9 try to bring jobs to the area, and that's all he
10 worked on was this project. Many residents of the
11 Bootheel area thought it was -- his endeavor was a
12 lost cause. There's no way you're going to get a
13 large manufacturing firm to move to the poorest
14 area of the state.

15 So Mr. Hunter had worked with Noranda
16 to try to get them to come to New Madrid, and it
17 was -- it was almost certain that we had lost the
18 plant to Kentucky. He talked to his son and he
19 said -- or Mr. Hunter was certain that it was lost,
20 and I talked to his son and he said that Mr. Sam
21 got down on his knees and prayed that somehow
22 Noranda would come to New Madrid.

23 And in December of 1967 Noranda
24 announced that they were coming after he worked
25 with the coal and power companies to get better

1 deals. In recognition of his answered prayers,
2 the New Madrid industrial park is named St. Jude.
3 You may question why the name St. Jude was picked,
4 but Mr. Sam had said that if there ever was a
5 desperate case, this was it.

6 So St. Jude is the name -- is the
7 patron saint of the New Madrid industrial park
8 because St. Jude is the patron saint of desperate
9 cases and lost causes. Mr. Hunter's successful
10 vision was such an event that a Super Bowl
11 commercial was actually made on how he helped the
12 community.

13 So tonight we have another
14 opportunity. We have an opportunity to establish a
15 vision. Tonight we have the opportunity to insure
16 that we continue the operation of the New Madrid
17 smelter. The two rate cases that have been
18 presented to the Public Service Commission gives a
19 fair and detailed road map as to how to save the
20 900 good-paying jobs we have.

21 The request before the Commission
22 asks that Ameren stop overearning their targeted
23 profits, and the other request that Noranda receive
24 a fair power contract that moves them from the
25 second highest power rate to the fifth highest

1 power rate out of the nine that are remaining.

2 As we all know, it's much easier to
3 save a company than it is to start a new company.
4 We need to support the manufacturing we have left.

5 No. 2 of the items I'd like to go
6 over is poverty. The Bootheel area currently has
7 three of the top ten poorest counties in the state,
8 and we are experiencing this type of poverty even
9 with Noranda's contributions.

10 Noranda's contributions to the local
11 economy is enormous. Yearly payroll with benefits
12 exceeds \$90 million. Value added to all Missouri
13 businesses exceeds 336 million. We employ 900
14 people from 60 local communities, and people drive
15 over 60 miles one way to reach us.

16 Our retirement payments exceed
17 7.8 million, and Noranda pays most -- pays
18 18 percent of the taxes or 17.9 percent of the
19 taxes in the county and 28.7 percent of the taxes
20 paid to New Madrid R-I Schools.

21 If we should ever lose the plant, I
22 think it would be safe to say that the Bootheel
23 will have the three top poorest counties in the
24 state.

25 The third point that I have tonight

1 is that never close. Many people think that
2 Noranda is such a vital part of the southeast
3 Missouri area that there is no way for it to close.
4 As I grew up in that area, I never thought it would
5 close myself until I started working there.

6 As I returned with my engineering
7 degree, I actually went to plants twice as big as
8 ours and actually seen that they were closed. And
9 when they close one of these smelters, and there's
10 been 23 of them close in the United States, they
11 take the entire building that's a quarter mile
12 long -- and we have six of those buildings, three
13 potlines. There's two rooms to each potline -- and
14 they remove it completely to the concrete level,
15 and all that's left is a concrete hole. And it is
16 amazing to see.

17 So in the last 32 years, 23 of our 32
18 aluminum smelters have closed in the United States.
19 Many of these smelters' employees have come to
20 Noranda seeking employment, and as I've talked to
21 them, they've also been a champion in our plant
22 that it could happen to us.

23 It almost happened to us in 2009. We
24 had an ice storm at the New Madrid facility that
25 shut down two of our potlines. I received the

1 call, and all -- I was like many of the employees
2 in the state where we all tried to get to the plant
3 and save the plant. It's something to see when the
4 entire region, there's not one light, and we drove
5 around power lines, drove through ditches, did
6 whatever we could to get to the plant.

7 We had people that were not supposed
8 to be at work just show up to work to try to save
9 the plant because the people of the area know that
10 without Noranda we have nothing.

11 And after we lost the two plants,
12 many of the people that had been at other plants,
13 they said, well, we'll be laid off tomorrow. What
14 they do in these type situations is when you lose a
15 plant and the aluminum price is in the 70 cent
16 range, there will be a posting tomorrow and we will
17 be laid off. A third to a half of us will be gone
18 tomorrow.

19 Well, our owners did not do that.
20 What they did is they actually took several weeks
21 just to try to figure out what to do, and they kept
22 us employed. And for the -- for the first two days
23 after the ice storm, I probably worked as hard as
24 I've ever worked trying to save pots, keep pots
25 running, and everybody coming together in a war

1 room and say, how are we going to save this plant?

2 And then after -- after those two
3 days, we spent weeks just saying, hey, what are we
4 going to do? And then our owners actually allowed
5 us to redig these pots and restart it up, and they
6 kept the plant running. So that is something that
7 was very unusual. The people I have talked to,
8 they said they'd never seen it before, and I really
9 appreciate that that was done.

10 And I really appreciate the
11 dedication of the people, and I think the way that
12 people showed out to work to save the plant shows
13 how important it is to the local economy.

14 We've talked about survival as a
15 fourth point, and Noranda, if you've had 23 of 32
16 plants close and they're currently worried about
17 being 24th paying the second highest rate, what
18 have we done to improve ourself? Because we can't
19 just depend on a power rate from somebody.

20 And so we've increased production.
21 We've -- since 1997 we've started on this long,
22 long journey that we have to improve our production
23 in order to stay in business. So we've invested
24 over \$300 million since 2003, and we've increased
25 our production 22 percent or 105 million pounds.

1 The second thing that you do is you
2 look at your labor costs, and Noranda has done the
3 tough decision of reducing our labor from 1,150
4 down to 900. It is one of the toughest things
5 I've ever been involved with, and we had -- it was
6 in the 2009, after the -- after the market crashed,
7 and we had to reduce that work force in order to
8 survive.

9 We've also looked at raw materials.
10 We've reduced our raw materials. And you would
11 think that that would ensure that Noranda is there
12 for my kids. I currently have five kids. I'd love
13 to have my son come back and work at the plant, but
14 I'm really concerned that our power rate, I might
15 say, hey, you need to go find somewhere else.

16 So electricity accounts for one-third
17 of the smelter's costs. As we talked earlier,
18 we've had 23 smelters close in the U.S., and those
19 23 have basically closed because of electrical
20 costs. And since we joined Ameren, our power costs
21 have went over, this year over -- or last year our
22 production and number of pots, 40 million per year.

23 Ohio, we haven't talked about them
24 tonight, but there was a smelter in Ohio named
25 Ormet, and Ormet went forward to try to get a

1 power -- a better power rate, and they did not
2 receive it. That plant has closed, and they have
3 lost over, I think it's around 1,000 jobs, and some
4 of those people have come and worked at Noranda
5 now. Actually I have one, maybe two.

6 So of the nine smelters left, we're
7 currently paying the second highest, and what we're
8 trying to do is move to the fifth.

9 So bringing up my last point is hope.
10 I would like to close with the request that you
11 consider the impact on southeast Missouri when
12 making your decision. The Noranda smelter is not a
13 lost cause and can continue to be a viable
14 manufacturing facility providing good jobs to the
15 area. The only thing we need at the New Madrid
16 facility is a competitive power rate.

17 So I'll close with this: As I lay
18 down to sleep tonight, I will say a prayer for
19 St. Jude, the patron saint of our park, to
20 intercede with the Lord and give you guidance to
21 make a wise decision and give the citizens of
22 southeast Missouri hope.

23 Thank you.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you,
25 Mr. Priggel.

1 Cameron Redd. Good evening.

2 (Witness sworn.)

3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

4 MR. REDD: My name is Cameron Redd.

5 I'm the assistant chief steward of United Steel
6 Workers Local 7686. As some of you well know, I'm
7 not a polished speaker, and I apologize up front.

8 I do have some new information,
9 different testimony, new testimony. I believe a
10 false premise is being promoted. This premise is
11 distracting from the facts that 43 percent -- a
12 43 percent rate increase and, in addition to that,
13 500 million in surcharges over the last six
14 years -- last six years have been absorbed by us
15 all who are on Ameren.

16 Ameren says that if Noranda gets a
17 rate reduction, they will have to raise the rates
18 on residential customers like me and many other
19 people here. I believe that is a false premise. I
20 saw you all were lectured on what's your job and
21 what's not your job. I found that a little bit
22 ludicrous.

23 I heard it said that Noranda was a
24 monopoly and we can simply raise the rates, but as
25 you well know, we cannot. Those rates are set in a

1 different country across the sea. We don't have
2 that luxury. Our belts have been tightened. We're
3 not lazy. We have fought hard for these jobs.
4 It's hard work.

5 This is the place and you are the
6 people to decide. I thank you for taking on that
7 burden. I thank you for letting me speak tonight.

8 I have to ask why, why do I keep
9 hearing that the rate has to be transferred to the
10 customer? You set the rates if I'm -- I may be a
11 little ignorant, but the Public Service, you decide
12 what the rates are, what the regulated monopoly of
13 Ameren can charge, what they can earn, what they
14 can get on their return.

15 And I say how much is enough?
16 43 percent raise over the last six years,
17 500 million in additional surcharges, and as you've
18 heard it contended several times here tonight,
19 100 million in overearnings over the last two
20 years. How much is enough? Why does anybody else
21 have to absorb it? Can the rates not be simply
22 lowered just a tiny bit?

23 Noranda has a yearly power cost of
24 \$160 million. As you've heard, we pay the second
25 highest rate in the nation. We're not asking for a

1 handout. We don't want costs transferred to other
2 customers, myself included. We're one of two of
3 the nine remaining smelters left, we're one of two
4 that does not receive subsidies for economic
5 development, and we're not asking for a handout
6 now. We're not asking for the rates to be
7 transferred to somebody else.

8 All we're asking for is a little
9 breathing room. We're pushing technology past the
10 bounds it was designed for. We're investing in new
11 technologies, but we need some breathing room. We
12 need some time to move this forward.

13 Noranda pays -- Noranda provides
14 well-paying jobs for one of the most impoverished
15 areas in the nation. You know, we've heard the
16 numbers one in three in our area. I've heard
17 testimony. I've been at all three hearings. My
18 heart goes out to the people that can't pay their
19 bills. It really does. My mother is one of those
20 people.

21 If Noranda is forced out of business
22 by a bad power bill, it will not only be bad for
23 the 900 families in southeast Missouri, it will
24 devastate southeast Missouri, the whole region, and
25 it will be bad for the State. You will hear the

1 sucking sound of a tornado of destruction over
2 southeast Missouri all the way to Jefferson City
3 because there will be a welfare state in that area
4 because, as it has been testified before, there's
5 not anything else. That's all we have.

6 You well know how tax bases work.
7 This will drive down the tax base for the whole
8 state, infrastructure, teachers, all that stuff.
9 The things that make companies want to move here
10 and invest in Missouri are infrastructure. You've
11 got to have good roads. You've got to have the
12 power, you know.

13 And I'm not bashing Ameren. I'm not
14 trying to bash anybody. But these are the facts.
15 If Noranda goes down, these real consequences, a
16 welfare state, lower tax base.

17 So I'm asking you gentlemen and the
18 Commission to please save our jobs in an area with
19 very little economic opportunity. By doing this,
20 you will help keep alive hope for our prosperity,
21 our children, hope for a better life.

22 My daughter wants to be a doctor.
23 She wants to be a pediatrician. If these jobs go
24 away, I won't be able to send my daughter to
25 college. These people will not be able to leave a

1 better legacy for their children. They will not be
2 able to add to our great state.

3 We're not asking for a handout.
4 We're asking for breathing room. And you gentlemen
5 and ladies and whoever's on the Commission, it's in
6 your hands. You decide on the regulated -- on the
7 regulations, how much the earnings, and the
8 difference here is a company that's going to go
9 down and the economic devastation of a whole area
10 and detriment to our state or a little -- a few
11 less million dollars in a company that's doing very
12 well.

13 What we're asking for is not going to
14 cripple Ameren. Ameren's testified how we're good
15 a customer. We -- in the question and answer
16 sessions of some of these, we have heard this
17 testimony from Ameren speaker itself about how good
18 and why we receive a low rate, the 10 percent load
19 that we use all the time.

20 The city of Springfield, we use about
21 the same amount as the city of Springfield.
22 There's over 160,000 people by the last census in
23 Springfield. Ameren doesn't have to invest in
24 people to run all over like they do in Springfield.
25 There's not thousands upon thousands of meters to

1 read. They don't have employees on the ground
2 running around. We have one meter box, and it runs
3 the same Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
4 Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday of every day,
5 365 days a year.

6 We would like to continue to be good
7 a customer, and again, we're just asking for a
8 break, just some breathing room to move and come
9 out of this thing ahead.

10 Finally, I ask you to, you know,
11 really think about that. I believe it to be a
12 false premise. There doesn't have to be a rate
13 increase on the residents, and we're not asking for
14 a handout. We're just asking for a little bit of
15 room.

16 I thank you very much for your time.
17 Again, I apologize. This touches me very deeply.
18 I'm not a public speaker. Thank you.

19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.
20 Stan Ivie.

21 MR. IVIE: Sir, I have the chief
22 steward and vice president. I know you don't want
23 to hear the same story over and over. So we'd like
24 to -- you've heard about the price we're paying.
25 So we'd like to address you as a short group.

1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Identify who all is
2 here.

3 MR. IVIE: Stan Ivie, president of
4 United Steel Workers Local 7686.

5 MR. HARPER: Gary Harper, vice
6 president of Local 7686.

7 MR. SNIDER: Dallas Snider, chief
8 steward, 7686.

9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. All raise
10 your right hands.

11 (Witnesses sworn.)

12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

13 MR. IVIE: You've heard the story
14 here tonight, 900 people over and over. It's not
15 900 people. It's like thousands of families that's
16 going to be affected, thousands.

17 Okay. The price of doing business
18 down there, a third is our electric. We just come
19 out of negotiations, this committee here and
20 another guy that just testified. You know, we done
21 everything we can to make that the most competitive
22 company in the world, and we are there. We're
23 there. But there's one spot that we're not, and
24 that's our power.

25 I mean, this work force, I've been

1 there 34 years, and I've probably got 250 people's
2 got seniority over me. We've got a very
3 experienced work force. That's why we are so
4 competitive. And like Gary will say, we get up
5 every day. There's no holidays out there,
6 weekends. We go in and we do the job, day in, day
7 out. It's a hot environment. We get up and do it.
8 165 degree catwalks, we're on top of there, day in
9 and day out.

10 And like I said, we have done
11 everything we can locally for the union to keep the
12 rates -- keep our wages decent for the community,
13 and it's going to affect thousands and thousands of
14 families if we don't get your help.

15 I think this is the perfect place for
16 this. You hear the -- one of the other naysayers
17 talk about the vets. We have one in five is a vet
18 down there, a veteran, 18 percent. And the work
19 force down there, like I said, it's topnotch in the
20 country.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

22 Thank you.

23 Mike Newman. Good evening. Please
24 raise your right hand.

25 (Witness sworn.)

1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

2 MR. NEWMAN: Your Honor, as I was
3 sitting back there I heard you say to someone else
4 that the testimony is on record, as is mine from
5 Monday night, then?

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Yes.

7 MR. NEWMAN: So there's no need for
8 me to read every word of this. If you don't mind,
9 I would like to paraphrase just a couple of the key
10 points.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Go right ahead.

12 MR. NEWMAN: What makes my being here
13 any different than anyone else is that I am one of
14 those people, one of the many people who has
15 experienced an aluminum production facility
16 shutting down. Ours was Kaiser Aluminum in
17 Spokane, Washington. Happened in 2000.

18 As I said the other night, when it
19 first occurred, most of us if not all of us were
20 stunned, if not shocked. Didn't really see it
21 coming, though there had been some rumblings in the
22 wind about power issues.

23 And the irony to me of this position
24 is that the plant where I did work for decades was
25 shut down because low metal prices and high power

1 prices. And though I am and do feel lucky and
2 privileged to have my job at Noranda, I didn't want
3 to come down to Noranda, but I was in a position
4 where it was the best option at the time.

5 And now I find myself involved in a
6 fight with the exact same reason all these years
7 later, low metal prices, high power prices,
8 relatively speaking. I relocated once when I was
9 young, and it was devastating to me, from South
10 Dakota where I used to fish in the Missouri River,
11 and then we moved down here from Spokane,
12 Washington. Spokane is quite a bit more
13 metropolitan than this area. It was quite an
14 adjustment as well.

15 The biggest heartache for us, of
16 course, was leaving our growing young sons -- our
17 grown sons, I should say, and their families. The
18 pain never goes away. And I -- having experienced
19 what happened, I know -- I can see in the future if
20 things go wrong, the devastation that will happen
21 to the people in this room and their families.

22 You can't replace -- as you well
23 know, you can't replace jobs like Noranda with just
24 snapping your finger. It doesn't exist. You can't
25 do it. These people will have no choice but to

1 relocate and hopefully find comparable jobs. Like
2 I said, we were very lucky.

3 I don't really know what else to say
4 except that I would hate to see this happen. I
5 have experienced it. It sucks bad. Changes your
6 life forever. Changes your future, the way you
7 envisioned it forever.

8 Hopefully the two parties involved
9 can come to some mutually acceptable agreement.
10 Thank you.

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

12 Darin Halter.

13 (Witness sworn.)

14 MR. HALTER: Good evening,
15 Commissioners and Judge. My name is Darin Halter.
16 I've worked at Noranda for 20 years. I'm the
17 director of operations at the New Madrid facility.

18 As you can see, many of my coworkers
19 and their families have traveled hundreds of miles
20 to be at this hearing, as well as the one in
21 Caruthersville and St. Louis. This obviously
22 speaks to how important this issue is to all of us
23 and, frankly, how dire the situation is.

24 Obviously I'm very familiar with it.
25 I've been at all three of them, like several other

1 people here with me tonight. Instead of every one
2 of us speaking, I'm going to speak for the
3 remaining group tonight and hundreds of other
4 workers and their families who couldn't be here,
5 many of whom are at the plant right now aluminum.

6 First of all, I want to thank all of
7 you for your public service. When I saw a couple
8 of the Commissioners and staff all the way down in
9 Caruthersville, it makes me feel good to know that
10 the process is working and that we are doing what
11 our government requires us to do.

12 Obviously you have a very tough job
13 to do, and all of us are thankful for the time and
14 effort you put into these important jobs.

15 I'm not going to sits here tonight
16 and pretend to be an expert on utility regulation,
17 energy policy in the state. What I am going to
18 talk about is pride, the pride that comes along
19 with working a shift at a job that we love next to
20 coworkers who are some of our best friends, pride
21 of being able to provide for our families, send our
22 kids to college and prosper in an area of the state
23 where that is no small feat, the pride of giving
24 back to our community, pride of paying taxes so
25 that we have good schools, libraries and police

1 departments, and lastly, the pride of making
2 products that help people all across the world in
3 their everyday lives.

4 I'm not an economist, but if you ask
5 me what's wrong with our country's economy, it's
6 that we stopped making stuff. Manufacturing is
7 what helped build the middle class in this country,
8 and slowly we have seen it slip away. Those jobs
9 are now overseas or, worse yet, nonexistent.

10 At Noranda, 900 of my coworkers and
11 myself take pride in the fact that we still make
12 products. Sometimes our aluminum goes into pans
13 that you cook in. More and more of our products go
14 into the cars of the future, allowing them to get
15 better gas mileage that we couldn't have dreamed
16 decades going.

17 In short, we love these jobs, and
18 with your help we will keep doing them for years to
19 come. If these jobs are lost, they will never come
20 back. That's heartbreaking to even think about.

21 I realize Ameren and some of their
22 supporters, while acknowledging that Noranda needs
23 some rate relief, don't believe that the plant is
24 in jeopardy. That's easy for a monopoly to say.
25 After all, you don't see too many monopolies going

1 out of business.

2 What you do see going out of business
3 are aluminum smelters. A couple of decades you've
4 heard there were nearly three dozen smelters in
5 this country, and today there are only nine. As
6 you know, out of those nine we pay the second
7 highest cost for electricity.

8 It doesn't take a rocket scientist to
9 realize which of the smelters is in jeopardy and
10 next line to be closed if the PSC doesn't grant
11 this proposal.

12 Noranda's 900 employees know all too
13 well that smelters close when they cannot secure a
14 competitive power rate. We know that firsthand
15 because, like you've heard, some of our coworkers
16 came to Noranda after having to relocate when they
17 lost their jobs at one of those closed smelters.

18 If that same thing happens to
19 Noranda, some of us may be able to relocate to the
20 eight remaining smelters. Most of us likely will
21 not have that option and don't know what we will
22 do. That's why the status quo is unacceptable, and
23 that's why all of us drove up here tonight to be
24 before you.

25 On behalf of the 900 workers at the

1 New Madrid plant, please do everything in your
2 power to keep us working. We will not let you
3 down. We take pride in our work. We take pride
4 in our state and in our community, and all we want
5 is to continue to do the jobs that we love for
6 decades to come.

7 You have an awesome responsibility in
8 your hands. You have the ability to save this
9 plant and the 900 families and thousands of others
10 who rely on it. Please allow us to hold our heads
11 up high and continue to go to work every day to a
12 job we love.

13 Thank you for your time and attention
14 this evening.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

16 The last name on the list is Russ
17 Oliver. Good evening. Please raise your right
18 hand.

19 (Witness sworn.)

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

21 MR. OLIVER: As I have presented at
22 the other two meetings, I have a letter that is
23 signed by 56 county elected officials throughout
24 the Bootheel. Essentially every county elected
25 official in the entire Bootheel signed this letter.

1 It's already been read into the record, so I won't
2 belabor the point. But the two Commissioners that
3 weren't at the other meetings, I'd like to give
4 them a copy if I might.

5 Judge Woodruff and Commissioner Hall
6 were there in Caruthersville and, you know,
7 whenever I talked down there, I might have preached
8 a little hellfire and brimstone about the subject.
9 This is something that I get passionate about.
10 This is something that's going to have a great deal
11 of negative impact on the little corner of the
12 world that I love, and I just can't stand to see
13 this plant go away and hurt southeast Missouri in a
14 way that we can't stand to be hurt.

15 But I don't feel like I have to do
16 that now, because I've sat through -- this is
17 probably going on about the ninth hour of testimony
18 that this Commission has heard, and unless there's
19 someone else here that's going to stand up and
20 talk, I haven't heard a single person say that the
21 Bootheel will be okay.

22 Out of all the people that came and
23 testified, I haven't heard anyone for Ameren,
24 anyone for any other group come in and say that,
25 you know, the Bootheel will recover, the Bootheel

1 will bring in some other jobs, the Bootheel will
2 find a way to make it through.

3 We simply are not going to be able to
4 make it through. I think that has been very
5 solidly established through all these hearings that
6 we won't be okay and that we won't make it through.
7 So I'm not going to belabor that point. I'm not
8 going to belabor the other points that you guys
9 know. You know that Ameren has increased its
10 rates 43 percent over the last six years. You know
11 all the numbers. More than anybody else you know
12 those things.

13 So I'd like to talk to you a little
14 bit tonight about some things that you might not
15 know about, that Noranda is a good corporate
16 citizen. This overearnings complaint, the way that
17 I understand it, because of Ameren's structure,
18 rate structure, they don't stand to gain anything
19 from the overearnings complaint.

20 That doesn't surprise me from Noranda
21 and their history and how they choose to do
22 business. Noranda is a good neighbor. Noranda is
23 a good corporate citizen. Noranda -- you've heard
24 from the Kenny Rogers director of that place that
25 offers free physical therapy and occupational

1 therapy for children with autism that's supported
2 by Noranda, by Noranda's employees and their
3 families, the hundreds of thousands of dollars that
4 have kept that place going.

5 You hear about the Sheltered Workshop
6 that is absolutely dependent on Noranda, and there
7 are 120 people with developmental disabilities.
8 This doesn't surprise me about Noranda. This is
9 what Noranda does and this is the kind of neighbor
10 Noranda is.

11 The same I can't say for Ameren.
12 Noranda's local county and property tax payments
13 make up 28 percent of the local tax revenue that
14 New Madrid County schools receive.

15 At the same time, Ameren Missouri is
16 currently fighting to reduce their local county tax
17 on their gas distribution center in my county,
18 Stoddard County, by about 60 percent. Currently
19 we're engaged in extremely expensive litigation
20 before the State Tax Commission.

21 And if I didn't introduce myself
22 before, I'm the county prosecutor, and so it's --
23 I'm part of the team that is trying to make Ameren
24 pay their fair share of taxes.

25 Ameren has not -- has done so not

1 only in Stoddard County but they've done it in 16
2 other counties across the state. These local tax
3 dollars are ultimately paid to the schools. Ameren
4 is thereby stripping away millions of -- it's
5 attempting to strip away millions of dollars out of
6 the hands of our local school districts and placing
7 it directly in the pockets of Ameren Missouri.

8 And this matter should not only be a
9 concern to those already taxed -- or cash-strapped
10 district, this should be an outrage to every single
11 ratepayer in the state of Missouri that's already
12 given Ameren all this money already in the rate
13 structure of their gas distribution system.

14 The last time that Ameren came before
15 you guys and asked in their rate case in 2010, in
16 their gas distribution -- or gas rate case, they
17 came in and they asked you guys to use the 2010 tax
18 year and to set as their overhead expense for their
19 property taxes that they pay to all these counties.
20 Well, you guys used that year, and you set their
21 rate based on what they paid in 2010. They paid
22 the full rate in 2010.

23 But in 2013 they came in to these 16
24 counties and turned in assessments that were 60
25 percent below what they had historically paid.

1 This is nothing more than a money grab by Ameren to
2 try to keep those earnings, the money they'd
3 already been paid by consumers that the consumers
4 have no way of getting back from Ameren.

5 This is a money grab that's going
6 directly into their pockets, and there's no way
7 those consumers will get those tax dollars back.
8 And if they wait five years to file another rate
9 case, they're already in year four. If they wait
10 five years, they will have basically taken from
11 local school districts and put in their own pockets
12 the equivalent of 253 schoolteachers' annual
13 salaries.

14 That's why I say that it doesn't
15 surprise me. In Stoddard County alone they're
16 asking to reduce what our schools will receive from
17 them by 57.1 percent.

18 And it doesn't surprise me that
19 Noranda fights for consumers in the Legislature and
20 they fight for consumers in front of you-all.
21 Noranda has saved customers billions of dollars
22 through their advocacy before you-all and before
23 the Legislature on behalf of consumers.

24 Without -- you know Representative
25 Kelly came in and was talking about this was --

1 that this is an adversarial proceeding. We're so
2 glad and it's a good thing that this is an
3 adversarial proceeding.

4 And I'm prosecuting attorney and I
5 work in the court system. I believe in adversarial
6 proceedings. I believe that when you have two
7 sides going against one another, that you
8 ultimately reach better resolutions.

9 Ameren I don't believe wants to have
10 an adversarial situation. I think that Ameren
11 wants Noranda's voice silenced because then you
12 have the one side to an adversarial proceeding,
13 which in my line of business if the defense lawyer
14 is not doing their job, you can have miscarriages
15 of justice. If the prosecutor is not doing their
16 job, you have miscarriages of justice.

17 And so I believe that Ameren would
18 like to have a one-sided adversarial system here.
19 And I don't base this on just this case. I base
20 this on the way that Ameren does business.

21 Going back to the gas rate case -- or
22 the gas property tax appeal that's pending before
23 the -- before the State Tax Commission, initially
24 Boone County was a part of this appeal. They
25 appealed their assessment with Boone County. The

1 total tax bill that was owed to Boone County was
2 just a little bit over \$2 million a year.

3 Boone County had monetary resources.
4 They had county counselors with Tax Commission
5 experience. Boone County's case was supposed to be
6 the lead case out of all these counties so that
7 they could come in and reach some type of
8 resolution in that case.

9 Well, Boone County showed that they
10 were going to fight this. They hired nationally
11 respected experts to value the gas distribution
12 system and to take Ameren to task on the claims
13 that they were making.

14 Within one week of Boone County
15 endorsing this expert witness and spending the
16 money to show that they were going to fight it,
17 Ameren dismissed that appeal and immediately paid
18 Boone County their \$2 million.

19 What did that leave with the rest of
20 it? That left counties like Stoddard County with
21 30,000 people in it. That left counties like
22 Lincoln County, like Moniteau County with less than
23 20,000 people in that county.

24 Prosecutors like me in those counties
25 don't have Tax Commission experience. They don't

1 have the revenue to go out and hire nationally
2 renowned experts. They have. We have spent the
3 money to retain those experts, and we're taking
4 Ameren to task, because just because you're
5 stronger than someone else doesn't mean you should
6 be able to bulldoze your way through whatever
7 situation you want to.

8 So we have taken them to task. What
9 Ameren was hoping for in that gas distribution
10 property tax appeal was to push out the person who
11 would take them to task, that would hold them
12 accountable, and we would have a one-sided
13 adversarial system.

14 That's exactly what I believe they
15 would like to see happen to Noranda Aluminum. If
16 Noranda Aluminum goes out of business in Missouri,
17 there's no other voice on the other side to stop
18 them in the Legislature, to give a voice to the
19 other people on the other side before you all.

20 Noranda (sic) has said in their
21 rhetoric, in their things that they put out in the
22 public that this case should be denied because it
23 is basically shifting the burden onto customers
24 that live more than 100 miles away from this plant.

25 This offends me as a person from

1 rural Missouri. This is why rural Missouri feels
2 like the stepchild of the State to St. Louis and
3 Kansas City. We gladly supported the tax dollars
4 that my constituents and other people in the
5 Bootheel that are 100 miles plus away from
6 St. Louis, we were happy to support and pay our
7 taxes to see that the tax credits that brought
8 Bombardier to St. Louis, that brought Express
9 Scripts, that saved the Ford plant and kept the
10 Ford plant open, the \$3 billion that was approved
11 for Boeing that was going to be located in
12 St. Louis that wasn't going to provide one job
13 downstate, we were happy to support that, to pay
14 our taxes, to bring those jobs to St. Louis, and we
15 don't begrudge St. Louis for those jobs.

16 But now we're asking for you to help
17 us preserve the one thing that we do have, because
18 56 county elected officials, people who have
19 testified through nine hours of testimony at these
20 hearings all agree, the Bootheel will not be the
21 same and we cannot survive.

22 And my people that I grew up with,
23 that I care about and that are trying to raise a
24 family in that area will be forever injured and
25 irreparable harm will happen to them if Noranda is

1 not preserved. That's an undisputed fact, and I
2 haven't heard anyone say anything different.

3 Thank you all for your time.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: That was all the
5 names on the list. Is there anyone here in the
6 audience who would like to testify that didn't get
7 signed up? I don't see anybody. Are you coming
8 forward to testify, sir?

9 MR. CRAIGHEAD: Yes, sir.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your
11 right hand.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Tell us your name,
14 please.

15 MR. CRAIGHEAD: For the record, my
16 name is Richard Craighead. I'm the legislative
17 coordinator for United Steel Workers District 11.

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I didn't catch your
19 last name.

20 MR. CRAIGHEAD: Craighead.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Craighead. Okay.
22 Go ahead.

23 MR. CRAIGHEAD: What I haven't heard
24 a whole lot of tonight, and last night I testified
25 to the same thing, is the fact that they will close

1 these smelters down if we don't do something to
2 help them. We just came off a huge campaign in
3 Hannibal, Ohio for a smelter out there, Ormet.
4 They were in trouble. People would not do anything
5 to help them. We petitioned the governor. They
6 would not do anything. They wouldn't get in the
7 middle of it.

8 They ended up they closed that plant.
9 They put a thousand people out of work, over a
10 thousand. So instead of running a save our jobs
11 campaign, we're running food banks out there now
12 for all the employees out there.

13 And you've got over a thousand people
14 that filed for unemployment and whatever other
15 benefits they can get.

16 If there's any way to get these two
17 companies together where they can get to a
18 reasonable solution to this problem, if there's
19 anything you can do, we would ask that you use your
20 power to do so.

21 The international union is in support
22 of Noranda, and the unions here in the state are in
23 support of Noranda and some kind of a rate
24 adjustment to give it survivability and
25 equitability in the market.

1 Three other states have lowered their
2 rates for smelters that are left. There's only
3 nine left out of 33 at one time. And that puts a
4 big competitive disadvantage to Noranda when other
5 smelters of other companies are getting lower
6 rates.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

8 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: Were those
9 legislative subsidies in those other states?

10 MR. CRAIGHEAD: Some of them are
11 combination. Some of them I think are rate
12 changes, just like we're doing here. But I think
13 some of them, they could be. I'm not a hundred
14 percent sure, but they could be.

15 COMMISSIONER W. KENNEY: All right.
16 Thank you.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir.

18 Is there anyone else who would like
19 to come forward and testify? Any final comments
20 from the Commissioners?

21 (No response.)

22 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. Then we
23 are adjourned. Thank you.

24 (WHEREUPON, the local public hearing
25 concluded at 8:48 p.m.)

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EXHIBITS INDEX

MARKED RECEIVED

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June 11, 2014 Letter from
Robert Haslag 50 50

EXHIBIT NO. 2

Packet Containing Information
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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF MISSOURI)

) ss.

COUNTY OF COLE)

I, Kellene K. Feddersen, Certified
Shorthand Reporter with the firm of Midwest
Litigation Services, do hereby certify that I was
personally present at the proceedings had in the
above-entitled cause at the time and place set
forth in the caption sheet thereof; that I then and
there took down in Stenotype the proceedings had;
and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct
transcript of such Stenotype notes so made at such
time and place.

Given at my office in the City
Jefferson, County of Cole, State of Missouri.

Kellene K. Feddersen, RPR, CSR, CCR

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