

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Grain Belt Express)
Clean Line LLC for a Certificate of Convenience and)
Necessity Authorizing it to Construct, Own, Operate,)
Control, Manage, and Maintain a High Voltage, Direct) Case No. EA-2016-0358
Current Transmission Line and an Associated Converter)
Station Providing an interconnection on the Maywood-)
Montgomery 345 kV Transmission Line)

AMICUS CURIAE BRIEF OF SSM HEALTH

SSM Health is a Catholic, not-for-profit health system serving the comprehensive health needs of communities across the Midwest through one of the largest integrated delivery systems in the nation.

With care delivery sites in Missouri, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin, SSM Health includes 20 hospitals, 62 outpatient care sites, a pharmacy benefit company, an insurance company, two nursing homes, comprehensive home care and hospice services, a technology company and two Accountable Care Organizations. With more than 8,500 physicians on our medical staff and more than 33,000 employees in four states, SSM Health is one of the largest employers in every community it serves.

SSM Health includes numerous physician's offices and 11 hospitals located in Missouri: eight hospitals in the Greater St. Louis Metropolitan area, one hospital in Mexico, one hospital in Jefferson City, and one hospital in Maryville.

Need for the Facilities And Public Interest Served

A core value to SSM Health is Stewardship, which means a commitment by SSM Health to "use financial, human and natural resources responsibly and care for the environment." As such, SSM Health supports the increased utilization of renewable energy in Missouri and the Midwest region.

The Grain Belt Express Clean Line will allow for the delivery of low-cost, renewable energy into Missouri, and result in a reduction on the use of fossil fuels to generate electricity. Grain Belt Express witness Neil Copeland explains in his Direct Testimony and Schedules how this project will reduce emissions from electric generation in Missouri by utilizing more non-polluting wind energy and less fossil-

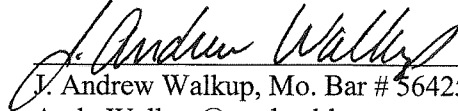
fuel based generation (primarily from coal). Emissions from the burning of fossil-fuels are known to reduce air quality and also cause health concerns.

Access to renewable energy that is also low-cost, and the reduction of emissions from electric generation from fossil fuels, will benefit Missouri and its citizens. In addition, as a consumer of electricity in Missouri, accessing renewable energy at low rates is consistent with SSM Health's business and mission objectives.

Therefore, for the reasons above, SSM Health is supportive of the Grain Belt Express Clean Line.

Dated: April 10, 2017

Respectfully submitted,



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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was sent via e-mail on this 10th day of April, 2017, to the parties listed in Exhibit A, attached.

