

Exhibit No.:  
Witness: Senator Doug Libla  
Type of Exhibit: Direct Testimony  
Issue: Noranda Economic Impact  
Sponsoring Party: Noranda Aluminum, Inc.  
Case No.: EC-2014-\_\_\_\_\_

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

\_\_\_\_\_  
)  
**In the Matter of Noranda** )  
**Aluminum, Inc.'s Request for** )  
**Revisions to Union Electric** ) **Case No. EC-2014-\_\_\_\_\_**  
**Company d/b/a Ameren** )  
**Missouri's Large Transmission** )  
**Service Tariff to Decrease its** )  
**Rate for Electric Service** )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**Direct Testimony of Senator Doug Libla**

On behalf of

**Noranda Aluminum, Inc.**

December 2, 2013

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Noranda  
Aluminum, Inc.'s Request for  
Revisions to Union Electric  
Company d/b/a Ameren  
Missouri's Large Transmission  
Service Tariff to Decrease its  
Rate for Electric Service

Case No. EC-2014-01\_\_

STATE OF MISSOURI )

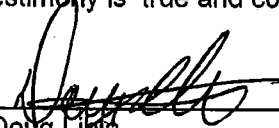
COUNTY OF Cole )

SS

Affidavit of Senator Doug Libla

Senator Doug Libla, being first duly sworn, on his oath states:


1. My name is Doug Libla. I am a Member of the Missouri Senate representing the 25th District. My address is 5287 Hwy 67 North, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901.
2. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes is my direct testimony, which was prepared in written form for introduction into evidence in Missouri Public Service Commission Case No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I hereby swear and affirm that the testimony is true and correct.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Libla

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2013.



LAURIE NOWACK  
My Commission Expires  
January 26, 2017  
Cole County  
Commission #13659152

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

1 Q PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

2 A Doug Libla, 5287 Hwy 67N Poplar Bluff, Missouri 63901.

3

4 Q WHAT ELECTED POSITION DO YOU HOLD?

5 A I am a member of the Missouri Senate, and I represent the 25th District.

6

7 Q HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MISSOURI STATE SENATOR?

8 A I was first elected to the Missouri Senate in 2012.

9

10 Q WHERE IS THE 25th DISTRICT?

11 A My district includes eight (8) counties in Southeast Missouri.

12

13 Q DOES NORANDA ALUMINUM, INC. OPERATE A PLANT IN YOUR  
14 DISTRICT?

15 A Yes, Noranda operates an aluminum smelter in New Madrid County, which is a  
16 part of the district I represent in the Missouri Senate.

17

18 Q WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

19 A To provide information concerning the impact of the Noranda smelter on my  
20 constituents in Southeast Missouri.

21

22 Q ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE OPERATIONS AT THE NORANDA PLANT IN  
23 SOUTHEAST MISSOURI?

24 A Yes. I am familiar with the operations at the Noranda plant. The employees of  
25 the plant live throughout Southeast Missouri. I have known employees of the

1 plant over the many years the plant has been in operation. These jobs have  
2 transcended several generations of my constituents with good paying family  
3 sustaining jobs.

4 **Q DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS THAT YOU WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE**  
5 **WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
6 **REGARDING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NORANDA'S OPERATIONS IN**  
7 **SOUTHEAST MISSOURI?**

8 A Noranda employs 970 people, and its operations have a major impact on the  
9 economy of Southeast Missouri. Noranda's employees are some of Southeast  
10 Missouri's leading citizens, and enjoy a high rate of pay and benefits. This  
11 enables them to make a positive impact on the communities where they live—  
12 both economically, and as leaders contributing to the overall quality of life.  
13 Noranda also provides almost 18 percent of the property taxes paid in New  
14 Madrid County and just over 28 percent of the taxes paid for the New Madrid  
15 County Central R-1 School District, so not only do they provide excellent paying  
16 jobs, but the company also shoulders a large part of the tax burden in New  
17 Madrid County which provides a benefit to everyone who lives there. Noranda is  
18 very important to our region, and it is important that the company remain  
19 profitable and continue to operate.

20  
21 **Q HOW HAVE NORANDA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TAX BASE IN NEW**  
22 **MADRID COUNTY BENEFITED THE COMMUNITY?**

23 A The property taxes paid by Noranda make a big impact. Because of these taxes,  
24 we have an excellent public school district in New Madrid County, with some of  
25 the best facilities and educators in the state. The quality of our schools has a far

1 reaching impact on our citizens and their ability to prepare for jobs and contribute  
2 to society.

3  
4 **Q HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR**  
5 **ROLE AS A STATE SENATOR?**

6 Yes. I have worked on legislation designed to foster economic development. I  
7 also have experience working with economic development professionals. I have  
8 learned through these experiences that attracting manufacturing jobs to the state  
9 of Missouri is challenging. Advances in technology have eliminated many  
10 manufacturing jobs, and many manufacturers have moved their operations  
11 overseas. Job creation and retaining the jobs are both essential to the quality of  
12 life in Southeast Missouri. If the Noranda smelter were to close, it would be very  
13 difficult to replace the lost jobs with similar high paying jobs. Losing these jobs  
14 would have an huge impact on this region, and would be felt statewide.

15  
16 **Q HOW IMPORTANT ARE MANUFACTURING JOBS SUCH AS THOSE THAT**  
17 **EXIST AT THE NORANDA PLANT TO THE ECONOMY OF SOUTHEAST**  
18 **MISSOURI?**

19 **A** Compared to the other jobs available in our area, Noranda's jobs are better  
20 paying and provide more benefits. This is generally true of manufacturing jobs.  
21 Manufacturing also contributes to job growth in related industries; those that  
22 supply products and services needed for production. Over the past 20 years or  
23 so, it has become increasingly difficult to attract and keep manufacturers in our  
24 area. The jobs at Noranda are extremely important to the economy of Southeast  
25 Missouri.

1

2 **Q ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?**

3 A The 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District of Missouri faces a number of economic challenges, with  
4 job creation and retention being at the top of the list. Being a part of the 8<sup>th</sup>  
5 Congressional District we are currently the 11<sup>th</sup> poorest district in the United  
6 States. New Madrid County and three other Southeast Missouri counties in my  
7 district are consistently the poorest in Missouri. When I look out over our  
8 community, and consider which companies are making an impact, Noranda  
9 definitely stands out. Noranda contributes over 900 good paying jobs with health  
10 benefits, including retirement plans. Noranda pumps millions of dollars into the  
11 regional economy. Noranda's continued operations and profitability are of utmost  
12 importance to all of the people of Southeast Missouri.

13

14 **Q DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY AT THIS TIME?**

15 A Yes, it does. Thank you for the privilege of providing my views on this issue.

16