BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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Data Center
Missouri Public

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In the Matter of a Working Case to Address)	Service Commission
Legislative Concerns Regarding Proposals to)	File No. EW-2013-0425
Modify Ratemaking Procedures for Electric Utilities.)	

COMMENTS OF DAVID MASON, PRESIDENT OF DAVID MASON AND ASSOCIATES

David Mason and Associates provides civil and structural engineering, architectural services, land surveying, and construction management and program management services to meet the needs of a diverse base of clients. For 13 years, my business has depended on affordable, reliable power to get the job done.

Commission Requests for Information

With regard to each of the specific issues that the Commission asked interested stakeholders to address, David Mason provides the following comments:

A. Identification of electric infrastructure problems, costs and needs;

We need to make sure that Missouri keeps up with the times in regards to infrastructure investment. To me, it's just common sense to streamline a regulatory model that's standing in the way of needed investment.

As it stands today, the very types of infrastructure maintenance covered in ISRS legislation get reimbursed over time through extremely costly and time-consuming rate cases before the Public Service Commission. I don't believe that ISRS legislation removes Public Service Commission oversight; it merely streamlines the process by allowing utilities to recoup the costs of maintenance they have already expended prior to their next rate case.

In other words, every maintenance expenditure made under this new legislation will be subject to review and approval or disapproval by the Public Service Commission. This law protects rate payers like me; I can rest assured that the charges on my electric bill are both prudently-incurred and financed more responsibly.

This legislation is also critically important to job creation here in Missouri—jobs that will benefit Missourians representing many industries in both in the short term and the long term.

Put simply, ISRS legislation would help electric companies invest more money, more quickly, in modernizing our infrastructure. Similar provisions and consumer protections have been part of Missouri law for the last 10 years, and it works.