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Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission,

Missouri Public
Service Commission

~~My name is Gary Mareschal.~~

I am a resident of St Charles County and a landowner in Monroe as well as several other Missouri counties.

I am here to request that you deny the request of Grain Belt Express to obtain a certificate of convenience and necessity.

I have some comments, observations, and questions relative to this application

As Grain Belt Express has indicated in their literature, The Grain Belt Express Clean Line will deliver approximately 4,000 megawatts of low-cost wind power from western Kansas to Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and neighboring states that have strong demand for clean, reliable energy. Is this a substantive deviation from their initial plan to deliver energy to the East coast where they can get a higher rate of return?

My understanding was that 500 megawatts out of the 4000 that would be transported would somehow go to Missouri. From a diagram presented in their literature it appears that 500 megawatts may somehow be proportioned between Illinois and Missouri, with the rest going elsewhere.

As I look at their route development guidelines it appears that the only states involved are Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois. Their website mentions that similar to the trains that carried grain from the Midwest to markets farther east, they will move renewable energy the same way with their power line structure. And their route development information indicates they worked with input from landowners among others. So I can only deduce that they misunderstood my no, we don't want you on our farms, to yes please route through our land as they developed their route. And based upon my understanding of general landowner buy in for their preferred route they must have had the same misunderstanding of what they were being told.

I also note that their current website is less conspicuous about the fact they are privately funded.

The following are my concerns and why I am opposed to this application for convenience and necessity.



No matter how Clean Line portrays the good they will do for power needs elsewhere, the reality is that they are a private for profit business. They want to develop and sell a product. Clearly they have fairly vast financial resources, and just as clearly everyone that they will be purchasing products from and giving discount energy to, and tax dollars will be supporting them. Why not? What is their cost in doing so? I can answer that, they have no cost. It's easy to support an enterprise or idea if all you receive is profit regardless of who you are willing to sell down the river.

Regarding the issue of whether they are a public utility and deserving of a certificate of convenience and necessity the answer is clearly no. Of the 4000 megawatts being generated they are willing to sell 500 to either Missouri, or Missouri and Illinois in combination. What is the minimum they could provide and be considered a public utility? Is this the same standard that companies such as Ameren and the rural electric co-ops are held to?

When I consider their comment that they are similar to trains, I think that is where I see the vast difference in opinion and why we really are here today. Grain Belt is clearly well funded, and sufficiently well organized in attempting to obtain their end goal-land.

So my concern is this. How can a company of this magnitude and development with the number of projects they have going on around the country not really have their railroad track laid already? If I am a farmer, or a developer of a product one of the keys to having a successful business and profit is being able to market what I have developed. If Grain Belt had done this, none of us would be here today. What they have done instead is laid out a route that is most agreeable to them and they have said damned the torpedoes full speed ahead. So they are leaving their dirty work up to the PSC. Require landowners to give up their property rights, their development plans, their hopes and dreams that they have worked for years to attain, in order for Grain Belt to derive a profit. And Grain Belt will lobby everyone and anyone to make input on their behalf.

What should have happened is that Grain Belt should have approached landowners in a much different manner seeking buy-in and agreement as an early part of the project, and either planned routing as close to those agreements as they could, or change their method of delivery of that power to underground at an acceptable capacity, rather than indicating it was a done deal at mass public meetings. If they had substantial support from landowners and routed that way there wouldn't even

be a question of whether they are or aren't a public utility. Clearly they have a fair number of supporters that they have promised substantial benefit to. I'm almost certain those beneficiaries would be more than happy to provide easements to some land so that Grain Belt can benefit them. I believe there is some agreement with a number of cities or towns in northern Missouri that will derive cheap power from Grain Belt if that goes through. So my thought would be that should this routing be absolutely necessary, that it more closely follow the route of the cities and towns that have signed on for cheap energy. Without a doubt most of them will have municipal lands and facilities upon which towers can be placed. And if not, I'd suspect members of those groups to be private landowners who would be more than willing to aid the enterprise they endorse.

But instead what Grain Belt had done is attempted to jam their project down landowners throats, and tried to convince the PSC that they are a public utility based on the miniscule amount of power they intend to deliver to Missouri.

I am honestly concerned that if the PSC approves this application, there will be less reason to own land in Missouri. Virtually any utility may want to become a public utility so they can route where they want. Or unless substantial restrictions apply Grain Belt may well have the ability to underbid other utilities and possibly establish a monopoly on power transport.

I am the best steward of my land. I know what my plans are for my land and I want no disruption in my retirement plans, recreational activities, visual enjoyment, health, or limitations on my use of my own land in order for a private for profit company to benefit from my families vast years of work to attain the land ownership that we currently have, and that already has other easements on it.

And I believe I can say with confidence that a majority of residents and landowners along the planned route feel the same way.

Once again, I urge you to deny Grain Belts application.

Thank you,