## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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Grain Belt Express Clean Line LLC

Case No. EA-2014-0207

## NOTICE OF COMMUNICATION

Issue Date: April 30, 2014

On April23, 2014 the General Counsel, Joshua Harden of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("MO PSC"), received a letter from Austin Parham, New London, Missouri. (See Letter Attached.) This communication is regarding substantive issues as defined by 4 CSR 240-4.020(0) in the above-referenced contested case.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joshua Harden

General Counsel

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri On this 30th day of April, 2014.

## **Austin Read Parham**

14559 Old 79 • New London, MO 63459-4032 • (703) 254-6093 • areadparham@gmail.com

Subject: EA-20 14-0207- Grain Belt Express

April19, 2014

Joshua Harden General Counsel Missouri Public Service Commission 200 Madison Street Governor Office Building Jefferson City, MO 65102-03 60

Dear Mr. Harden,

Please deny public utility status to Clean Line Energy's Grain Belt Express (GBE) Clean Line. The GBE does more harm than good to Missouri.

GBE will permanently damage fertile farmland and remove the land from farming. GBE will also negate the sensitive ecological work my family has personally conducted over the last 20 years on the first permanent settlement in Ralls County.

We restored Missouri 's ecologically sensitive native oak savanna wildlife habitat in a section of Ralls County during a 20year effort with USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service. This habitat is now threatened by GBE's development plans to install power lines in this rare habitat. Native oak savanna habitat, a mixture of oak trees and prairie grasses, was once predominant in Missouri and the Midwest but centuries of human activity have all but destroyed less than 0.02% of the savanna's original extent. Bird species dependent on this habitat have and continue to decline. For example, turkey populations have declined 40% in Missouri while the area historically supported one of the highest known turkey population densities.

Clean Line's GBE will ruin a 20-year effort in Ralls County that my family initiated to protect Missouri's endangered savanna habitat.

Clean Line's GBE aims to use the power of eminent domain to transfer privately held land from one private individual to a private company. This is unacceptable. The Missouri public does not gain "public use" through this application of eminent domain.

lam absolutely opposed to Clean Line's GBE and their desire to acquire farmland and to remove it from production. Not only will Clean Line's GBE irrevocably damage fertile farmland, but it will also destroy threatened Missouri native oak savanna habitat in Ralls County and traverse the first permanent settlement in Ralls County.

Clean Line's GBE would harm the historically-significant first permanent settlement in Ralls County and ruin a 20-year native habitat development project that successfully reestablished sensitive and scarce Missouri native oak savanna habitat. Declining wild turkey populations are dependent on this habitat that is threatened by Clean Line Energy's GBE.

Further, Clean Line never contacted me or my family before or after proposing to place high-voltage power Jines across our land. It is unacceptable for one private individual to make plans for another private individual's land without first consulting the original landowner.

Clean Line's actions are in total disregard to the counties it's project will cross.

Please deny Clean Line public utility status.

Austin Parham

New London, MO

