		Page 1
1	STATE OF MISSOURI	
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION	
3		
4	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS	
5		
6	Local Public Hearing	
7	December 13, 2016	
8	Cameron, Missouri	
9	Cameron Community Center	
10	Volume VI	
11		
12	In The Matter Of The)	
	Application Of Grain Belt)	
13	Express Clean Line LLC For A)	
	Certificate Of Convencience And)	
14	Necessity Authorizing It To)	
	Construct, Own, Operate,)	
15	Control, Manage And Maintain A) File No. EA-2015-0358	
	High Voltage, Direct Current)	
16	Transmission Line And An)	
	Associated Converter Station)	
17	Providing An Interconnection On)	
	The Maywood-Montgomery 345kv)	
18	Transmission Line)	
19		
20	MICHAEL BUSHMANN, Presiding	
	SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE	
21		
	DANIEL Y. HALL, Chairman,	
22	MAIDA J. COLEMAN,	
	WILLIAM P. KENNEY,	
23	COMMISSIONERS	
24		
25	REPORTED BY: Albert Narvaez	

		Page 2
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1	PROCEEDINGS	
2	(Hearing commenced at 11:59 a.m.)	
3	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Let's go on the record.	
4	Good afternoon. It's December 13, 2016. We	
5	are in Cameron, Missouri. Missouri Public Service	
6	Commission has set this time for a local public hearing	
7	in the case captioned as In the Matter of the	
8	Application of Grain Belt Express Clean Line, LLC, for	
9	a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity Authorizing	
10	it to Construct, Own, Operate, Control, Manage and	
11	Maintain a High Voltage, Direct Current Transmission	
12	Line and an Associated Converter Station Providing an	
13	Interconnection on the Maywood-Montgomery 345kV	
14	Transmission Line. The File Number is EA-2016-0358.	
15	My name is Michael Bushmann and I'm the	
16	regulatory law judge that will be presiding over this	
17	hearing. With me today are Commissioners William	
18	Kenney and Maida Coleman. Chairman Hall has been	
19	delayed a few minutes and asked that we go ahead and	
20	start without him, but he'll be here shortly. Mr.	
21	Kenney, did you have something to say?	
22	MR. KENNEY: Thank you. Good afternoon.	
23	It's good to see some friends here again. I appreciate	
24	everybody's attendance here. We know this is a very	
25	important decision-making process that we have. This	

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- 1 is the fifth of eight public hearings. And many of you
- 2 participated last go around also and I appreciate that.
- 3 As many of you also know this is just one phase of the
- 4 process, but we look forward to hearing what you have
- 5 to say. And each of the other commissioners, although
- 6 they may not be able to be here, will be able to read
- 7 the testimony that will be a part of case file. So
- 8 again, I appreciate your attendance.
- 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Let's have counsel make
- 10 their entry of appearance. For Grain Belt Express
- 11 Clean Line, LLC.
- 12 MR. ZOBRIST: Karl Zobrist, Dentons Law
- 13 Firm, Kansas City, Missouri.
- 14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: For commission staff?
- MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Show Me Concerned
- 17 Landowners?
- 18 MR. LINTON: David Linton.
- 19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And if counsel for any
- 20 other intervenors are present here today, please make
- 21 your entry of appearance now. I don't see any.
- 22 I'd like to remind everybody to take this time
- 23 to please silence their cell phones so there is no
- 24 disruptions during the hearing. And before taking any
- 25 testimony, I want to provide you with some information

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- 1 about why the Commission is holding this public
- 2 hearing.
- 3 The Commission has already scheduled an
- 4 evidentiary hearing for March of next year to take
- 5 evidence regarding Grain Belt Express's application.
- 6 But it's also scheduled hearings in each of the
- 7 counties that are effected by the proposed transmission
- 8 line to give the members of the public a chance to
- 9 state their support or their opposition to the project.
- 10 And that's the purpose of today hearing.
- 11 For those who would like to provide testimony
- 12 today, I'm going to call the names listed on the
- 13 sign-up sheet. And when I call your name, please come
- 14 forward to this podium in the front. I'll put you
- 15 under oath and ask you to state your name and where you
- 16 live. And then you can offer your comments to the
- 17 Commission. The Commission has established some ground
- 18 rules for this hearing to try and give everybody a
- 19 chance to testify within a reasonable period of time.
- 20 You can only testify at one hearing. So if you do
- 21 testify at a hearing and your name appears on the
- 22 sign-up sheet at a later hearing, you won't be called
- 23 to testify again.
- 24 Your testimony is limited to five minutes per
- 25 person. I have a timer next to me that will help you

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- 1 keep track of your time. And give a warning when your
- 2 time is up. If you haven't finished your comments when
- 3 the time expires you can submit all of your comments in
- 4 writing or by calling the Commission. And the
- 5 Commission staff is available at a table back here in
- 6 the entrance to give you information on how to do that.
- 7 You can't donate your time to another witness who has
- 8 run out of time. The commissioners won't be able to
- 9 answer any questions today because they have to remain
- 10 impartial until after the evidence is presented at the
- 11 evidentiary hearing. If you do have questions please
- 12 direct those to Commission staff or company
- 13 representatives.
- 14 In order for the Commission staff to have
- 15 sufficient time to set up for another hearing this
- 16 evening this hearing has to end no later than 4
- 17 o'clock.
- 18 My final request is to please be polite and
- 19 courteous to everybody who testifies here today and
- 20 treat them as you would like to be treated. The first
- 21 name I have is Bruce Burdick. Mr. Burdick, could you
- 22 come forward please.
- 23 (Witness sworn.)
- 24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 25 and spell your last name.

Page 7 1 MR. BURDICK: Bruce Burdick, 2 B-u-r-d-i-c-k. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live, 4 sir? 5 MR. BURDICK: North of Plattsburg, 6 Missouri. 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead. 8 MR. BURDICK: Mr. Chairman, members of 9 the Commission, thank you for giving me the opportunity 10 to address you today. I live in Clinton County. closest the Grain Belt property -- the transmission 11 line will physically come to my property is just over 12 two miles. The issue I would like to address with you 13 14 today is not a physical location issue, but a property rights issue which may effect the use of property 15 16 throughout the state. That issue is the use of eminent domain to 17 18 secure property for financial piece benefit. There is 19 no doubt that eminent domain has a place in secured property in the public sector for the ultimate goal of 20 21 value to all stakeholders throughout Missouri. But the 22 use of eminent domain for a private benefit has the 23 potential to open up a pandora's box for unfettered use by large private corporations against individual 24 25 landowners.

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- 1 What measures are in place to prevent or
- 2 regulate this use? Would this use reduce the
- 3 bargaining power of an individual on the use of his
- 4 property and ultimately the value of his property?
- 5 Excuse me.
- 6 Your decision on the approval of the Grain Belt
- 7 Line has a major bearing on the future of individual
- 8 property rights beyond the use of the transmission
- 9 lines spanning across Missouri. Less than ten miles to
- 10 the west of Cameron, Missouri, in DeKalb County is an
- 11 example of unfettered development and disregard for
- 12 local property owners. That example involves
- 13 development of 97 permits scattered throughout DeKalb
- 14 County for electrical generation. Some of those
- 15 turbine locations have been developed for a weak and
- 16 disputed township zoning process.
- 17 Many turbines were constructed in townships
- 18 where absolutely no zoning rules are in place.
- 19 Unfortunately adjacent landowners have absolutely no
- 20 recourse on the placement of those turbines.
- 21 Essentially a positive ruling on the use of eminent
- 22 domain by a private company through this Commission has
- 23 the potential to allow this corporation, as well as
- 24 others, to develop these projects at will. All in the
- 25 name of eminent domain.

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- 1 When you leave this meeting and travel west to
- 2 Faucett on Route 36 as you pass the turbines today.
- 3 Ask yourself whether this type of development is what
- 4 we need or more importantly what we want in our state.
- 5 I certainly do not.
- 6 You have made a ruling in the past in this
- 7 application which upholds the rights of individual
- 8 landowners. Now the Grain Belt sponsors have come back
- 9 to supposedly sweeten the pot for Missouri. Jobs,
- 10 school taxes, improved infrastructures and reduced
- 11 electrical costs. Funny, I have heard the same claims
- 12 from the wind turbine developers. Look closely and you
- 13 will see the little substantial long term benefits.
- 14 Promises. Promises. Stick to your previous ruling, it
- 15 was a good one and the right one for the people of
- 16 Missouri. Thank you.
- MS. COLEMAN: Mr. Burdick, would you
- 18 come back up to the microphone, please? And did I get
- 19 your last name correct?
- MR. BURDICK: B-u-r-d-i-c-k, Burdick.
- MS. COLEMAN: Okay. Thank you. So I
- 22 have a quick question because at one of your closing
- 23 comments was about sweetening the pot. So I would like
- 24 to know, because you did talk about previous experience
- 25 with, I guess, the wind turbine placement. Did you see

Page 10 any improvement in the economy as a result of -- based 2 on what you were saying? 3 MR. BURDICK: What we have basically 4 seen the turbine developers came into our area and promising a number of jobs and a number of issues that 5 6 were going to be improved. To be quite frank with you 7 the number of jobs were mostly out of state. Very, 8 very few were in state. The in-state jobs were 9 basically local truck drivers and gravel haulers. And 10 in terms of the school tax issues, when we started looking at it, is they made promises of \$30 million to 11 our group, to the counties. That's over a 30-year 12 13 period. When you start breaking it down on a per 14 turbine cost or payout it's very, very small. 15 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you, sir. 16 MR. BURDICK: Thank you. 17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Next witness is Ron 18 Peterson. 19 (Witness sworn.) 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 21 and spell your last name. 22 MR. PETERSON: Ron Peterson, 23 P-e-t-e-r-s-o-n. 24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 25 MR. PETERSON: Holt County.

Page 11 1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead. 2 MR. PETERSON: I am a Missouri landowner 3 and a retired registered nurse practitioner. I 4 practiced for 30 years. And the last 20 years here in Northwest Missouri. I'm against Grain Belt Express 5 taking my private land for gain of a private company. 7 I have taken care of a lot of farmers who are trying to make ends meet in the chaotic society that we have. 8 9 And having a section of land removed from the 10 production plays havoc with their lives. 11 I'm also concerned with the large power line going across the heartland of America. Being a 12 13 potential terrorist threat to wipe out electricity to the East Coast and being built above three pipelines. 14 I believe that granting the use of eminent 15 16 domain to Grain Belt Express violates our rights as 17 individual property owners. 18 In 2006 Missourians demanded reform of the 19 State's law to prohibit condemnation of private property solely for economic reasons such as the 20 21 increased tax revenue. Remember, your backyard could 22 generate more taxes if Wal-Mart was built there. 23 I believe Grain Belt Express, a private company, should be forced to negotiate with the open 24 25 market like other businesses to acquire land. In other

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- 1 words, Grain Belt Express wants to pay penance and
- 2 therefore needs eminent domain to force landowners to
- 3 sell easement and all the transport possible to the
- 4 East Coast.
- 5 They promise large tax revenues to counties
- 6 scarred by this line. But since this money is only a
- 7 motivating factor for this company, they will do
- 8 anything that they can after approval to reduce tax
- 9 liability. If this application is approved, the
- 10 project would constitute one of the largest
- 11 condemnations of private land in Missouri history. And
- 12 we will have absolutely no choice. Towers almost as
- 13 tall as the Missouri state capitol will be built on our
- 14 farms.
- 15 How ironic it is that given the height of those
- 16 towers that our rights as individuals in the state
- 17 would be violated. I would like to believe that this
- 18 is not the American way. It's not what the Missouri
- 19 state capitol stands for. Thank you for your time.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Donald
- 21 Davies.
- 22 (Witness sworn.)
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 24 and spell your last name.
- MR. DAVIES: Donald Davies, D-a-v-i-e-s.

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1	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?	
2	MR. DAVIES: Caroll County.	
3	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
4	MR. DAVIES: I thank you Public Service	
5	Commission for your time in allowing me to testify.	
6	Clean Line right-of-way might cost me about 1/2 mile.	
7	All summaries are my opinions. I have four items to	
8	file with you. Front page of the guide book for	
9	Missouri leaders, February 2014 and pages 30 and 31 of	
10	this 120 page book that I have in my possession. And	
11	an eight-page transmission line easement agreement that	
12	I received from Grain Belt. Also a front page of an	
13	obituary and a transmission line easement agreement	
14	filed at the Caroll County Courthouse and recorded in	
15	Book 780, pages 256 to 263. And my written testimony.	
16	The first four pages of the file easement and	
17	the blank easement appear to be the same or identical.	
18	In Caroll County an almost 93-year-old man signed a	
19	1,268 foot plus or minus easement that has been filed	
20	with the Caroll County recorder. I believe this cost	
21	him and his family \$91,200, less \$10 and other good and	
22	valuable consideration if it was actually received.	
23	This man passed away and his two adjoining farms in	
24	Caroll County were sold at public auction. The 152	
25	acre grass track with the easement brought \$2,400 an	

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- 1 acre. The 80 acres similar grass track across the road
- 2 without an easement brought \$3,000 per acre. 152 times
- 3 \$600 equals \$91,200.
- 4 This easement Page 1, Section 2a says, Grain
- 5 Belt may pay landowner additional consideration
- 6 pursuant to that certain easement calculation sheet
- 7 executed by the landowner concurrently with this
- 8 agreement. I don't see this filled in that, with the
- 9 recorder's office. Shouldn't it have been there?
- 10 But Grain Belt will pay landowner for certain
- 11 damages as set forth in and in accordance with the
- 12 terms of the structure and damages calculation sheet
- 13 executed by landowner concurrently with this agreement.
- 14 I don't see this filed with the recorder's office.
- 15 Shouldn't it have been there?
- 16 Section 2, Section D says, the easement
- includes the right of ingress and egress over the
- 18 easement itself, over the property of the landowner in
- 19 order to obtain access to the easement and over the
- 20 property of the landowner adjacent to the easement in
- 21 line between public and private loads. And the
- 22 easement in such matter that they shall cause the least
- 23 practical damage and inconvenience to the landowner.
- 24 How can Clean Line expect a landowner to give
- 25 permission for Clean Line to cross the landowner

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- 1 adjacent to get to my property, if they want to? It is
- 2 wrong to make adjacent owner have damages just to help
- 3 Texas billionaire make more money. This Clean Line
- 4 easement should never, never, never be signed as it's
- 5 written. No two farms are alike, so no two easements
- 6 should be alike. So easement should ever be signed
- 7 without approval of your lawyer.
- 8 I feel this family was cheated by Grain Belt
- 9 Express and doesn't follow the guidelines quoted in the
- 10 guide book for Missouri Leader 2014, pages 30 and 31.
- 11 Clean Line is not paying enough for this right-of-way.
- 12 The pipeline that came through in 2008 paid much more
- 13 per acre and their utility is underground. Clean Line
- 14 utility is above ground and creates a lot more problems
- 15 such as liability, unsightly towers, aerial spraying,
- 16 computers, GPS, business band radios and health and
- many others.
- 18 I think the starting price from Clean Line
- 19 should be at least double the price per acre what the
- 20 pipeline paid because there's is all above the ground
- 21 and causes other problems. If any of you have any
- 22 questions ask me. Well, I've only got 26 seconds so
- 23 thank you.
- MS. COLEMAN: Mr. Davies, I just want to
- 25 say to you that you did really good. You saved 26

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- 1 seconds and I appreciate that. Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Do you have some
- 3 exhibits you want to include?
- 4 MR. DAVIES: Yes, I've got exhibits one
- 5 and five. I read the list awhile ago about what it
- 6 was.
- 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Was it four of them?
- 8 MR. DAVIES: Well, I can count the
- 9 pages. Ten or 12 pages of it.
- 10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Are those each page a
- 11 separate exhibit or is it --
- MR. DAVIES: Some of them are stapled
- 13 together.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. Why don't you
- 15 give them to the court reporter and we'll have those
- 16 marked.
- 17 (Exhibit Nos. 36-41 marked for identification.)
- MR. DAVIES: Okay.
- 19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: First exhibit will be
- 20 36. And for the record, let's have an entry appearance
- 21 for counsel.
- MS. SHIM: Good morning. I'm Lera
- 23 Shemwell and I represent the Office of Public Counsel
- 24 and the public in this case. Our office an eminent
- 25 domain ombudsman and his name is Fred Crafty and I have

Page 17 a bunch of cards. If any of you would like to consult 2 with him I'll just leave the cards up here. And I'll 3 leave some in the back on the table for the people from 4 the Commission. It's a pleasure to be here. Thank 5 you. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Next is Clouse 7 Coffman. 8 (Witness sworn.) 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 10 and spell your last name. 11 MR. COFFMAN: My name is Clouse Coffman, C-o-f-f-m-a-n. 12 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? MR. COFFMAN: Just north of 14 Stewartsville, Missouri. 15 16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead. 17 MR. COFFMAN: I am Clouse Coffman a 18 landowner and investor in southern DeKalb County. I 19 have a master's degree and a Ph degree in soils and 20 crop production from the University of Missouri and 21 Iowa State University respectively. 22 My wife and I own two parcels of farmland 23 totaling 580 acres. One of these farms has been in the family since 1870, four generations. Two years ago 24 25 KCP&L who had eminent domain privileges came across

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- 1 both of our farms with their transmission lines. There
- 2 are eight support towers on our farms transversing
- 3 nearly one mile. We experienced firsthand what impacts
- 4 these activities on both land and products.
- 5 Shortly after this project was begun we found
- 6 out that this transmission project was to support a
- 7 private company who is funded by hundreds of millions
- 8 of tax dollars called stimulus funds. In the direction
- 9 of industrial wind energy complex near our farm. One
- 10 of these turbines is only 600 feet from our property
- 11 line. This will have adverse effects upon what can be
- 12 done on that part of our farm in the future. Over
- 13 these past two years we have learned a great deal about
- 14 how some private companies operate to achieve their
- 15 financial goals. Especially as it impacts the
- 16 decisions made by governmental bodies and officials.
- 17 These government officials have been elected or
- 18 appointed to protect the health, safety and general
- 19 welfare of the residents and landowners of the
- 20 jurisdiction which they serve.
- 21 Throughout my life I have come to realize that
- 22 the more I learn the more there is to learn. The fact
- 23 is true for all issues and circumstances. I say this
- 24 to emphasize the need to be careful and not to allow
- our decisions to be made on the basis of emotion only.

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- 1 I have heard and read many comments relative to the
- 2 pluses and minuses of wind energy and transmission
- 3 lines across farmland without the support of in-depth
- 4 studies and thought.
- 5 The request by Clean Line Grain Belt Express
- 6 for the privilege to use eminent domain power to
- 7 transport electrical power generated by wind turbines
- 8 in Kansas across the state of Missouri to the eastern
- 9 part of United States should be turned down. If this
- 10 request were to be granted what will the impact of this
- 11 decision that the Public Commission makes now that will
- 12 have on our future actions. I am very strongly opposed
- 13 to granting eminent domain privilege to any private
- 14 company such as to Clean Line Grain Belt Express.
- 15 Such an action will open the door to many
- 16 private entities in the future to desire eminent domain
- 17 power to excess and use private property for their own
- 18 personal gain at the expense of the landowner. It is
- 19 extremely dangerous to the freedom of the American
- 20 people when a private owner or foreign country could
- 21 quickly become the owner, operator of the easement
- 22 across our farms.
- There are many other options to provide for our
- 24 growing energy needs than to use wind turbines, which
- 25 are very inefficient, expensive and threatening to the

Page 20 health and safety and welfare of those who live near 2 them. Those who say otherwise have not done their 3 homework and are basing their opinions on emotions 4 only. I encourage those who think this project 5 6 proposed to come across Missouri will reduce their electric bills to search out the facts. Remember, 7 8 facts do not cease to exit because we choose to ignore them. I thank you very much for your consideration. 10 I'll leave a copy for you. (Exhibit No. 42 marked for identification.) 11 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: That's Exhibit 42? 13 COURT REPORTER: Yes. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Chris Painter. 14 15 (Witness sworn.) 16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name and spell your last name. 17 18 MR. PAINTER: Chris Painter, 19 P-a-i-n-t-e-r. 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 21 MR. PAINTER: Gower, Missouri. 22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 23 MR. PAINTER: If you'll permit me an illustration from Second Samuel, Chapter 12, "Then the 24 25 Lord sent Nathan to David and he came to him and said,

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- there were two men in one city, the one rich man had
- 2 the other poor. The rich man had a great many flocks
- 3 and herds, but the poor man had nothing expect one
- 4 little ewe lamb which he bought and nourished and it
- 5 grew up together with him and his children. It would
- 6 eat of his bread and drink of his cup and lie in his
- 7 bosom. It was like a daughter to him. Now the
- 8 traveler came to the rich man and he was unwilling to
- 9 take from his own flock or his own herd to prepare for
- 10 the way for her who had come to him. Rather he took
- 11 the foreman's ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who
- 12 had come to him.
- 13 Then David's anger burned greatly against the
- 14 man and he said to Nathan, as the Lord lives, surely
- 15 the man who has done this deserves to die. You must
- 16 make restitution for the land foretold because he did
- 17 this thing and had no compensation. Nathan then said
- 18 to David, you are the man." This is the lesson
- 19 that is applicable to Clean Line Energy. It's a story
- 20 of the ultra rich attempting to steal everything that
- 21 the common citizen owns. It is not about saving the
- 22 planet. And it's not about jobs, it's about profits.
- 23 This is not a case of a fair buyout. It's about the
- 24 abuse of eminent domain. All of us who live on or near
- 25 the post line will be forced to live in a landscape

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- 1 marred with unsightly towers. No monetary compensation
- 2 can replace the beauty of the land of our parents,
- 3 grandparents and neighbors.
- 4 Even paying four-times over cannot replace our
- 5 land. Our land that we love as a daughter. And yet
- 6 the most troubling part of all this is the legacy that
- 7 it leaves for the next generation. I teach at a high
- 8 school which sits less than a mile from the proposed
- 9 line. I can make you a long list of the young people
- 10 whose lives will be impacted. Is it fair to pass this
- 11 burden on to these young people. Are their futures on
- 12 this land worth a few jobs or promises of tax revenue?
- 13 And a power line that everyone knows cannot limit its
- 14 capacity to clean energy. Is that justice? Is it
- 15 justice to ask the few to bear the burden for the many?
- 16 What if we asked Clean Line's venture
- 17 capitalist to sacrifice at the same level. What if all
- 18 the folks who have come from far away who testified in
- 19 favor of this line were asked to sacrifice at the same
- 20 level. What if you were asked to sacrifice at the same
- 21 level.
- 22 I called the Governor's Office to ask him these
- 23 questions. And the staff member answering the phone
- 24 admitted that wherever this line is built the people
- 25 who own the land will not want it. So how do we solve

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- 1 these problems, clean up the environment and provide
- 2 quality jobs? The answer is not Grain Belt Express.
- 3 We have a lot of invented people in this country. I
- 4 believe that we can come up with the technology that
- 5 provides real green energy in a way that respects
- 6 property rights. I teach a lot of creative kids. I'm
- 7 sure they can find a better solution than Grain Belt
- 8 Express.
- 9 Windmills, direct current and overhead
- 10 transmission lines are all technologies from the 19th
- 11 Century. I think we can do better than that. Let's
- 12 demand a 21st Century solution. So here is the
- 13 question: Which David from the Bible will it be? Will
- 14 you side with Clean Line Energy, the David who
- 15 slaughtered the ewe lamb, the David who sent Uriah to
- 16 the front lines to be killed. The David that exercised
- 17 tyranny? Or will you be the David who stood up against
- 18 all odds and faced Goliath and fought for the people?
- I know that you will find it in your hearts to
- 20 do what is right. Please stand with us who are opposed
- 21 to the use of eminent domain. Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Joe Aughinbaugh.
- 23 (Witness sworn.)
- 24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 25 and spell your last name.

Page 24 1 MR. AUGHINBAUGH: Joe Aughinbaugh, 2 A-u-g-h-i-n-b-a-u-g-h. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 4 MR. AUGHINBAUGH: Stewartsville. 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead. 6 MR. AUGHINBAUGH: Thank you for allowing 7 me this opportunity to present why I'm opposed to 8 granting Grain Belt Express, a private company, 9 authority to use eminent domain to acquire easements to 10 run high voltage power lines across property of individuals in Missouri. 11 12 I have property in DeKalb County where the new KCP&L transmission line was built. It's not 13 even in service yet. They have the power of eminent 14 domain being a utility company. We held out as long as 15 16 we could to try and prevent them from crossing our 80 17 acres until we figured out that we had no power to 18 negotiate any fees that we felt would compensate us for the inconvenience. 19 20 They had a figure and we had to agree. 21 Take it or leave it. They would empower the process of 22 eminent domain. We were concerned about stray voltage, 23 changes to the magnetic field, ingress and egress to 24 every square foot of our property at any time they felt 25 it necessary. When we were -- when they were

Page 25

- 1 completing construction on our place, I noticed the
- 2 permit fence, they replaced about 200 feet of it, that
- 3 they had grounded the barbed wire fence in four
- 4 different locations in 200 feet. This was done as if
- 5 it were part of the electrical system. Proper
- 6 connectors, proper ground wire, proper grounding. I
- 7 have pictures that show this as an exhibit. If there's
- 8 no stray voltage problem or electrical problems why
- 9 would we do this? Why would they do this?
- 10 Last fall, I needed to replace an
- 11 electric fence charger that I need to control my
- 12 livestock from five different patterns, the only means
- 13 of internal fencing that I use within my 80 acres. As
- 14 I was reading the instruction manual I came across the
- 15 warnings, not suggestions, but warnings, it said,
- 16 quote, never install an electric fence under a high
- 17 voltage transmission line. If there's no problem with
- 18 stray voltage or other things then why this warning?
- 19 As a property owner, it should be our choice as to what
- 20 type of fencing that we're going to use not a company
- 21 with eminent domain practices. It is a worry to me
- 22 what I may expect from the warnings of the fence
- 23 charger and the groundings with the permanent fence
- 24 under a transmission line. What effects might it have
- 25 on my machinery, you know? I just -- I don't

		Page 26
1	understand it.	
2	I hope that my concerns will be your	
3	concerns in deciding to grant eminent domain to Grain	
4	Belt Express for erecting high voltage transmission	
5	lines across the state of Missouri. Thank you for your	
6	time.	
7	MS. COLEMAN: Thank you, sir.	
8	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Did you want to enter	
9	that picture as an exhibit?	
10	MR. AUGHINBAUGH: Yes. And also the	
11	warning out of that page.	
12	JUDGE BUSHMANN: So that would be	
13	exhibits 43 and 44.	
14	(Exhibit Nos. 43 and 44 marked for identification.)	
15	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. The next witness	
16	is Eva Jane Schuster.	
17	(Witness sworn.)	
18	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name	
19	and spell your last name.	
20	MS. SCHUSTER: My name is Eva Jane	
21	Schuster, S-c-h-u-s-t-e-r.	
22	JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?	
23	MS. SCHUSTER: Gower, Missouri.	
24	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
25	MS. SCHUSTER: I'm a resident and	

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- 1 landowner in Clinton County, Missouri. And I'm here
- 2 today to register opposition to the proposed Grain Belt
- 3 Express transmission line and urge you to please ignore
- 4 the company's application for certificate of liens and
- 5 necessity.
- 6 My farm has been targeted as part of this
- 7 project and I want to emphasize why I oppose -- why I
- 8 oppose this massive hydro exclusive transmission line.
- 9 Number 1, on a personal level, I rent my farm to one
- 10 farmer for pasture and another for crop production.
- 11 I'm concerned that they will not find the land
- 12 desirable if they had to walk around and under high
- 13 voltage lines and massive 200 foot poles. I depend on
- 14 this rent to supplement my income.
- 15 Number 2, this proposed line will stretch 780
- 16 miles from Southwest Kansas and crossing Missouri and
- 17 Illinois and terminating in Indiana where it would
- 18 connect into a grid that services the Northeast. I ask
- 19 why should thousands of landowners like myself be
- 20 forced to sell an easement and live and work under or
- 21 near a high voltage DC line so the Eastern part of the
- 22 country can have another power source. Why can't the
- 23 Northeastern states harness their own wind power?
- Number 3, the construction of this line will
- 25 scar the landscape and eliminate future land options,

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- 1 create soil compaction and destroy timber in its path.
- 2 Property values would not help but plummet and exceed
- 3 any amount of compensation received from Grain Belt
- 4 Express. 600 landowners and 5,000 acres in Missouri,
- 5 plus hundreds of others very near who would receive
- 6 absolutely no compensation. What damage would be
- 7 involved in construction and maintenance? And what if
- 8 in a few years Grain Belt Express decided to abandon
- 9 the line and the mess they have created?
- 10 Number 4, recent press releases by Grain Belt
- 11 Express have toted savings in electric bills and
- 12 additional revenues to schools. No one supports the
- 13 right of every family to safe and affordable electric
- 14 power more than I do. And no one supports the schools
- 15 and their needs anymore than I do. By the same token,
- 16 I support the right of each and every landowner in the
- 17 path of this proposed line for a safe and productive
- 18 farm under the owner's care and management without
- 19 easements.
- I remember the joy of my father many years ago
- 21 when he saved up and purchased his farm and how he
- 22 cared for it through the years. I also remember the
- 23 year electricity came to our rural home 60 to 70 years
- 24 ago. Missouri has been blessed with a great power
- 25 supply since that time. Please let us keep our

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- 1 farmland intact for now and for future generations.
- 2 Why we ask that a private utility for-profit company be
- 3 granted the power of eminent domain to erode our
- 4 property rights now and set a precedent for future
- 5 generations.
- 6 Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the
- 7 Commission. I urge you to deny Grain Belt Express.
- 8 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.
- 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: John Elliott.
- 10 (Witness sworn.)
- 11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 12 and spell your last name.
- 13 MR. ELLIOTT: John Elliott,
- 14 E-l-l-i-o-t-t.
- 15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- 16 MR. ELLIOTT: Lathrop. Clinton County.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- 18 MR. ELLIOTT: I have property just south
- 19 of Turney in Range 55. It's 130 acres. I have seen
- 20 where the Grain Belt is supposed to either go on the
- 21 property or around it or on the edge of it, but I have
- 22 a private airstrip on my property. And airplanes and
- 23 transmission lines just don't mix. They're not very
- 24 compatible.
- I would have to be forced to close my airstrip

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- 1 if this Grain Belt Line goes through. I have three
- 2 pipelines going across my property now. The pipe
- 3 purchase the Trans Canada and the Keystone Pipeline.
- 4 They destroyed the property for over three years
- 5 because it was not tillable, it wasn't productive. And
- 6 they paid me dearly for it. Eminent domain would not
- 7 compensate anyone properly for what damage they have
- 8 done. And also a loss of my private strip which we use
- 9 sometimes for aerial spraying and private use. And
- 10 that's my comments. Thank you.
- MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.
- 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Dennis Smith.
- 13 (Witness sworn.)
- 14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 15 and spell your last name.
- 16 MR. SMITH: Dennis Smith, last name is
- 17 S-m-i-t-h.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- 19 MR. SMITH: I'm a property owner in
- 20 Randolph County.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- MR. SMITH: As a landowner and passage
- 23 of the proposed line, I'm opposed to the use of eminent
- 24 domain for this purpose.
- 25 Grain Belt Express is not a public utility.

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- 1 The Ottawa Appellate Court in Illinois ruled that it is
- 2 not a public utility and therefore not entitled to
- 3 eminent domain. That alone is sufficient reason to
- 4 deny this company access to private property. Other
- 5 nations proceeded us in development of wind energy. We
- 6 should learn from their mistakes.
- 7 The grand promises of cheap energy, jobs and
- 8 benefit to society should be viewed critically. There
- 9 is a web site termed the Institute for Energy Research
- 10 that is a watch group and think-tank group in
- 11 Washington, D.C. In the November report, the Europeans
- 12 have provided subsidies and instituted policies to
- 13 promote renewable energy, primarily wind. These are
- 14 actually quotes from their sight. The end result is to
- 15 lower gross domestic product, give fewer jobs and
- 16 reduce household income and make energy less accessible
- 17 and more costly. The end result is -- or excuse me.
- 18 The U.S. Chamber of Commerce report in this
- 19 same report on that site found the European-type
- 20 policies in our economy result in a \$700 billion annual
- 21 loss to the U.S. economy. So much for all the promises
- 22 from Grain Belt Express. 8 million fewer jobs and
- 23 Americans would have to pay and extra \$4,800 per year
- 24 on their energy bills.
- 25 Germany has highly subsidized energy costs that

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- 1 cost residents three times more per household than
- 2 energy in the United States. Since Germany's wind
- 3 energy cannot be controlled its had to backup the power
- 4 of fossil fuels, mainly coal. The problem with wind
- 5 power is that it's intermittent. Thus it is
- 6 uncontrollable by the system operating. Wind and solar
- 7 can burn out the girds if they produce too much and not
- 8 enough electricity leading to brownouts or blackouts.
- 9 Germany's grid has already been damaged in relying on
- 10 too much wind power.
- 11 In 2015, Germany paid wind farms \$548 million
- 12 to cut their power to try to prevent further damage to
- 13 their grid. The International Energy Agency has said
- 14 that renewable energy will increase in capacity in the
- 15 next five years.
- 16 The problem is that wind energy produces only
- 17 half the capacity of nuclear, coal or natural gas
- 18 plants. The cost to purchasers is increased because
- 19 wind energy has to double their capacity to achieve the
- 20 same amount of power as nuclear, coal or gas.
- 21 A report in July from this Institute for Energy
- 22 Research stated and, quote, electricity from new wind
- 23 is over 3.5 times more expensive than from existing
- 24 nuclear. And 2.5 times more expensive than existing
- 25 coal plants. They state that wind energy is unreliable

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- 1 and causes more blackouts. Wind and solar energy
- 2 installations provide about 4% of our electricity. And
- 3 grid operators struggle to keep the energy supply
- 4 constant.
- 5 Under the curtain administration, wind energy
- 6 has enjoyed huge subsidies to build and promote it.
- 7 Grain Belt Express has pushed to get their lucrative
- 8 transmission line installed before political favoritism
- 9 has expired. In leveling the playing field by removing
- 10 costs and taxpayer subsidies will make wind energy only
- 11 more costly.
- 12 Grain Belt Express is a private business in
- 13 business for profit. The promise of 4 cent electricity
- 14 is ludicrous. Look at the experience in other
- 15 countries. How can a company make a promise of 4 cent
- 16 electricity if the electricity entering the pipeline is
- 17 three times more expensive than what we're already
- 18 paying. The marks in the East for businesses currently
- 19 trying to meet noxious EPA regulations, under the new
- 20 presidency, if those regulations are downgraded who
- 21 will be left holding the bag.
- 22 Landowners against this project respectfully
- 23 request that you consider the real cost to our homes,
- 24 livelihoods and personal liberties if this private
- 25 company were granted public utility status. Thank you.

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1	MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.	
2	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Glenn Duyer.	
3	(Witness sworn.)	
4	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name	
5	and spell your last name.	
6	MR. DUYER: Glenn Duyer, D-u-y-e-r.	
7	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?	
8	MR. DUYER: Stewartsville, Missouri.	
9	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
10	MR. DUYER: My wife and I are fourth	
11	generation farm. That my great grandfather homestead	
12	in 1868. And I thank you for this opportunity to share	
13	our concerns over this transmission line.	
14	We're opposed to the application of this	
15	certificate of convenience and necessity and we ask you	
16	to deny it. We don't want condemned land easements	
17	across this state. You will repeatedly hear others say	
18	this project is a creation of multiple investors and	
19	corporations seeking federal subsidies and production	
20	tax credits. And it has no source for power. And	
21	they're not in the business of constructing	
22	transmission lines built from wind energy systems.	
23	We have a great concern for property values.	
24	They will be dramatically affected by transmission	
25	lines over time. I want to address this request for	

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- 1 eminent domain to take from private lesson. Before you
- 2 grant eminent domain to this company, please reflected
- 3 on the investors involved. The frequency of their
- 4 startup companies being resold and the options existing
- 5 for foreign companies and other investigators.
- I believe if you grant this authority for
- 7 eminent domain and condemnation of private property you
- 8 give every private company an opportunity to follow the
- 9 precedent set. Let me illustrate one future scenario.
- 10 KCP&L in Missouri are the operators of a power line
- 11 recently constructed using the authority of eminent
- domain in DeKalb County. The power is to come from 97
- 13 wind turbines and you're going to get to see them this
- 14 evening. NextEra has contracts, easements and liens on
- 15 all the property containing these wind turbines and
- 16 collection lines that run to the substations.
- When the wind turbine sites were totally
- 18 isolated, NextEra a private company, used county road
- 19 right-of-way through private property without owners
- 20 permission. I think that's illegal and without the
- 21 authority you would grant. But imagine giving NextEra
- 22 or any other wind energy developer the right to use any
- 23 farmland they choose. The right to ignore the property
- 24 rights of our state residents. KCP&L and TransSource
- 25 will own the substations built by NextEra. Who owns

Page 36 the collection lines for the wind turbines? Who's to 2 say in the future that NextEra may not sell or lease 3 these contracts or lines to a public or private 4 utility. Would you grant that builder or owner eminent 5 domain? 6 If your certificate is granted to Grain Belt 7 Express Clean Line what can -- or should I say, what can't be done inside the 200-foot easements in the 8 9 future. Property rights and use of farmland will 10 definitely be impacted. There is no strategic value to the future of Missouri to have this line constructed 11 across our state. 12 13 Our next president has said he will eliminate the subsidies for tax creates that wind energy are 14 getting. Eventually eliminating this industry. 15 16 will certainly impact it. If you should inquire -- you 17 should require new financial data on these corporations 18 and have them provide proposed utility rates after 19 President-Elect Trump's actions to drain the swamp. 20 Please deny this application of Grain Belt. 21 Don't keep destroying the farmer and our way of life. 22 Thank you. 23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: MaryJo Sloan. 24 (Witness sworn.) 25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name

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and spell your last name. 2 MS. SLOAN: My name is Mary Jo Sloan, 3 S-l-o-a-n. 4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? MS. SLOAN: I live out on a farm outside 5 6 of Plattsburg in Clinton County. 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 8 MS. SLOAN: I wasn't raised on a farm, 9 but I've been blessed by being able to live on a farm 10 for the past 47 years. It's a beautiful family farm 11 that is very special to everyone in our family. The family has scattered, but it is always 12 special with special times when everyone comes back to 13 the farm. It's home to us. We love the beautiful 14 rural landscape and the peace and the quiet. I don't 15 16 want it destroyed by greed. 17 Clean Line wants to be granted eminent domain. 18 And if granted, this line could cross our farm for 19 about a mile. This line will not benefit -- or have no 20 benefit for our state nor our farm. This is a private 21 company for private gain and should not be given 22 eminent domain. We already have three pipelines that 23 cross our farm. We have given enough. I don't want the family farm or my backyard destroyed so that the 24

executive of Clean Line can buy a bigger mansion.

25

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- 1 The people in this state have property rights
- 2 that need to be protected. I ask you to stop this line
- 3 before we all have to live with the consequences for
- 4 the rest of our lives. The destruction will be here
- 5 forever. I know money has been promised to the schools
- 6 and to the people in town that think this sounds good.
- 7 Where are they coming up with these figures? Will the
- 8 schools have to sue to get any money that is owed them.
- 9 The landowners are the ones being thrown under
- 10 bus. I taught school in this state for 25 years. When
- 11 I retired, I didn't want anymore money spent in my
- 12 classroom. I wanted my students to have strong
- 13 families with parents that valued education. Money
- 14 can't fix the education system. Strong families can
- 15 and money can't buy that. These are things that you
- 16 need to think about.
- 17 They also promise jobs. These companies always
- 18 promise jobs. I urge you to ask the people in DeKalb
- 19 County about the jobs the wind company provided in
- 20 their county. A drive through their county will reveal
- 21 a lot of out-of-state license plates. If any jobs come
- 22 with this destruction of family farms they will be
- 23 temporary. The landowners are the ones that will loose
- 24 their land and their quality of life. Is this fair? I
- 25 don't think so. I know from listening to hours of

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- 1 sworn testimony in Clinton County last summary that
- 2 wind energy is not clean. It's not cheap. It's not
- 3 efficient. And it can't be built without the
- 4 production tax credits.
- 5 The energy companies always say, it's not a
- 6 subsidy, it's a tax credit. They're the same thing.
- 7 The production tax credit means there is less money in
- 8 the U.S Treasury reducing the amount of money that can
- 9 be used to pay down the national debt and improve our
- 10 military and improve the healthcare of veterans and
- 11 improve our infrastructure, et cetra.
- 12 We need to stop wasting tax dollars on
- 13 businesses that can't support themselves. This company
- 14 should not be allowed to steal our land for private
- 15 gain. If this company gets eminent domain you will be
- 16 opening a box that you can't put the lid back on. Our
- 17 beautiful rural areas will all be in danger of
- 18 disappearing.
- 19 I want to close with proof that this wind
- 20 energy is not going to be cheap for the people of
- 21 Missouri. I called KCP&L to ask about pre-charges that
- 22 were on my bill. I knew the answer before I called,
- 23 but I wanted to hear them say it. So I asked them what
- 24 they were for. The answer was, oh, that's a charge you
- 25 pay for renewable energy. So I said, "The bottom line

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- 1 is that I'm paying a surcharge because you have to buy
- 2 wind power?" The answer, "That's right."
- 3 Here's another example. This is a rural
- 4 electric property, if you sign up for renewable energy
- 5 you pay \$5 more for every 100 kilowatt hour block of
- 6 green power that you request. How is this going to
- 7 save Missourians \$10 million? There is no benefit to
- 8 me as a consumer in this state. Clean Line needs to be
- 9 denied. Protect our family farms. Please protect our
- 10 health and quality of life.
- 11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Charles Sloan.
- 12 (Witness sworn.)
- 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 14 and spell your last name.
- 15 MR. SLOAN: My name is Charlie Sloan,
- 16 S-l-o-a-n.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- MR. SLOAN: Medford.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- 20 MR. SLOAN: My name is Charlie Sloan and
- 21 I've lived on the same farm in Clinton County all of my
- 22 67 years. I've done all the farming since I was in
- 23 high school. I've worked 24/7 to help pay for the
- 24 land. My wife taught school for 25 years. With both
- of us working, we managed to send two sons to college.

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- 1 We love our farm.
- 2 The transmission line will cross our family
- 3 farm for about a mile. We already have three pipelines
- 4 across our farm. We have given enough. No more. This
- 5 is a private company for profit and they should not be
- 6 given eminent domain. This company hasn't built
- 7 anything. All the numbers they throw around are just
- 8 numbers they pulled out of the air. How can they
- 9 possibly know they are going to save the people in our
- 10 state \$10 millon.
- 11 The line and the turbines aren't even built.
- 12 The production tax credits go down by 20% on December
- 13 31st. They don't know what it will cost to build this
- 14 line so how in the world could they know how much money
- 15 they can save us. I believe with the change in the
- 16 works that companies are going to do better than pull
- 17 numbers out of the air. Our state doesn't need the
- 18 power. This line is to carry wind power to the people
- 19 -- this line is to carry wind power in front of the
- 20 DeKalb County -- wind energy is a scam. It is not
- 21 cheap, not clean, not efficient and can not be built
- 22 without production tax credits.
- 23 Production tax credits are being phased out and
- 24 we're hoping come January 20 it will be phased out
- 25 faster than planned. The wind turbines in Kansas

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- 1 aren't even built. What happens if they aren't built
- 2 and you have given this company eminent domain?
- 3 I know from listening to expert witnesses in
- 4 Clinton County last summer that my property values will
- 5 go down. Is that fair to us? I don't want to give up
- 6 my land and my quality of life just so executives can
- 7 live in South Texas in a multimillion dollar mansion.
- 8 Our property rights come first.
- 9 Your job is to protect the citizens of this
- 10 State. Do you really believe that this company wants
- 11 to provide us with cheap electricity? I don't believe
- 12 that and no one else in this room does either.
- 13 If power is needed on the East Coast the wind
- 14 blows there so build the line there. Let them have the
- 15 so called savings and electric bills. Let them have
- 16 the tax money. I want to leave this land in better
- 17 shape than I found it. I want to leave this land for
- 18 my children and grandchildren. They love the farm is I
- 19 do. This farm is our home and the place where we
- 20 raised two boys. It's special to us.
- 21 Do you really believe -- do you really want to
- 22 be the ones who are responsible for letting our
- 23 beautiful rural state be destroyed. I certainly hope
- 24 not. Thank you for your time.
- MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

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1	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Larry King.	
2	(Witness sworn.)	
3	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name	
4	and spell your last name.	
5	MR. KING: Larry King, K-i-n-g.	
6	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?	
7	MR. KING: Cameron, Missouri.	
8	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
9	MR. KING: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, the	
10	Commissioners for allowing us to visit with you today.	
11	I have lived in Clinton County and been in business in	
12	Clinton County for 53 years and everytime I hear Grain	
13	Belt, negative thoughts come to my mind. Mainly	
14	eminent domain, foreign money, no value for Missouri,	
15	and a dumping grounds for big business.	
16	I understand Grain Belt is 60% owned by	
17	billionaire brothers in Houston, Texas. 40% owned by	
18	foreign money. And I understand that the foreign	
19	owners have an option to purchase it before, during or	
20	after construction, which tells me that within the near	
21	future, 200-foot easement across Clinton County and	
22	across the state of Missouri will be controlled by	
23	foreign money.	
24	I also understand that they want 200 foot. I	
25	also understand that I have copies of letters signed	

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- 1 by seven governors on the East Coast that say they do
- 2 not need or want this power that is coming to them.
- 3 So my question is, what else is going to be
- 4 used in this 200-foot easement or controlled by foreign
- 5 money taken by eminent domain. I see that Northwest
- 6 Missouri has become a dumping grounds for big business.
- 7 In the past two years we've got big towers from KCP&L,
- 8 P&L and we've got the turbines coming and now they want
- 9 to put Grain Belt across us.
- 10 I believe that it's time for someone to take a
- 11 stand and stand up for Clinton County and Northwest
- 12 Missouri. We are part of the State of Missouri. I'd
- 13 ask you and I thank you for your time today, and I'd
- 14 ask you to keep this beautiful farming, timber,
- 15 grasslands and the landscape of Clinton County and
- 16 Northwest Missouri protected. I'd urge you to keep the
- 17 land ownership in the hands of locals and not foreign
- 18 investigators. And just say no to Grain Belt Express.
- 19 I thank you for your time today.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Barbara Saunders.
- 21 (Witness sworn.)
- 22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- and spell your last name.
- MS. SAUNDERS: Barbara Saunders,
- S-a-u-n-d-e-r-s.

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1	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?	
2	MS. SAUNDERS: I live in Osborn,	
3	Missouri, DeKalb County.	
4	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
5	MS. SAUNDERS: I also live in Halfax	
6	Township where a wind energy corporation has destroyed	
7	the God-given landscape that we were so fortunately	
8	able to once enjoy and appreciate.	
9	Now the practice of farming, raising livestock	
10	and our families are forever changed. I ask that you	
11	do not give eminent domain to Grain Belt Express or for	
12	that matter any corporation at all. Please understand	
13	that by doing so that by doing so, for one will in	
14	itself set a precedence for others to follow such as	
15	oil or any other minerals that corporations could use	
16	for money-hungry investigators. And in so doing you	
17	will give only a small minority of contract holders	
18	permission to destroy not only not only their own	
19	land, but the land of their neighbors around them that	
20	do not have contracts.	
21	This is the Public Service Commission so please	
22	do your job and work for the public and not for	
23	corporations. Thank you for your time.	
24	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Bill Saunders.	
25	(Witness sworn.)	

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1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 2 and spell your last name. 3 MR. SAUNDERS: Bill Saunders, 4 S-a-u-n-d-e-r-s. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 5 MR. SAUNDERS: Osborn. 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 8 MR. SAUNDERS: I didn't write anything 9 down, but that was my wife that just spoke. We live 10 right in the middle of this mess. I would advise you guys to not give eminent domain to any private company. 11 We have lived firsthand with NextEra a private 12 company. There was no regard for anything, anything. 13 They have ruined Pony Express wildlife area. 14 Twenty-one turbines within a mile right out here. I 15 16 don't know if any of you have ever been? But the State 17 granted permission. They have no regard. 18 The conservation people asked them to keep them 19 three miles away. No reply. They asked them again, 20 they begged them for a mile set back. No reply. There 21 are 21 within a mile of that conservation area. are bald eagles, geese, ducks, bats. Everything is 22 23 going to be ruined. I don't know this private corporation. I have firsthand knowledge of how they 24 25 work. They don't care about anything for Missouri.

Page 47 Please turn this down. No eminent domain. Thank you. 2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Next witness is, I 3 believe, is Cedina Phillips Millard? 4 (Witness sworn.) 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 6 and spell your last name. 7 MS. MILLARD: Cedina Phillips Millard. 8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. Where do you 9 live? 10 MS. MILLARD: Clinton County, Missouri. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 11 12 MS. MILLARDS: I own one of the largest 13 single plots free and clear here in Clinton County that 14 would be effected by the Grain Belt. It stretches two miles west to east around 620 acres. This farm has 15 16 been in my family for 111 years. My family has been 17 identified with Northwest Missouri since the years of 18 the following opening of the Platt Bridges for 19 settlement. They have been considered to be one of the foremost farmers, politicians, legislatures, bankers, 20 21 businessmen in the state. 22 We have been a reliable family, one of the 23 progressive and highly esteemed citizens in Clinton County. I have been taught the value of industry of 24 25 thrift and of fair and square dealing with myself and

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- 1 others. I feel as though as I am a woman of impeccable
- 2 judgment in financial matters having my BS in
- 3 accounting and business management. We are here in
- 4 Missouri and I hope -- and I posses a personality that
- 5 has made me admired socially in Clinton County. On a
- 6 financial term I do not see this benefiting my town, my
- 7 country nor my state. I, myself, I'm interested in
- 8 church and school and I freely give to any movement for
- 9 the improvement of my home, locality or state. But in
- 10 this case, I am for blocking the Grain Belt Express for
- 11 the reason that Grain Belt Express does not benefit my
- 12 family of three, my county of around 21,000, nor my
- 13 state of 6.60 million people.
- 14 I am active for benefiting our social and work
- 15 affairs in Clinton County. And I do not see this
- 16 benefiting us in anyway. It seems everyone always
- 17 says, keep jobs local, when I look at see that jobs are
- 18 dying and end up being replaced. There are few jobs
- 19 that Grain Belt is offering. If this State allows the
- 20 Grain Belt Express to come through my property I would
- 21 say the PSPs have not been taught the value of square
- 22 dealings with others.
- 23 Considering the majority of the landowners
- 24 oppose this and are the ones that pay state and local
- 25 property taxes. And as Charlie earlier, I'm not going

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to get off point, but my father always told me that it 2 was made on my family farm. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Katie McKay. 4 (Witness sworn.) 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 6 and spell your last name. 7 MS. MCKAY: Katie McKay, M-c-K-a-y. I live in Cameron, Missouri. 8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 9 10 MS. MCKAY: Good afternoon. My name is 11 Katie McKay and I'm a licensee player in the State of Missouri. I'm also a board member and a treasurer of 12 13 Missouri Landowners Alliance a not-for-profit group fighting the Grain Belt. 14 I would like to address some tax revenue claims 15 16 made by Clean Line. On June 21, 2014, Clean Line went 17 on record in St. Joseph News-Press stating, by our 18 estimates Grain Belt Express would bring in 19 approximately \$550,000 in revenue to Clinton County 20 starting in the first year of operation. 21 Recent claims by Clean Line about tax revenue 22 amounts per DeKalb County have been \$800,000 to a 23 million dollars. Construction has not yet begun and the establishments are vastly different. Why is there 24 25 such a huge difference from 2014 to now? Which is

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- 1 accurate? Nobody including the Missouri State Tax
- 2 Commission actually knows what assessments will be
- 3 applied to Grain Belt Express. There are no windmills
- 4 yet, no lines built yet and no customers yet. Clean
- 5 Line has never even built a transmission line so we're
- 6 not sure it will work.
- 7 Let's switch gears from hypothetical taxes to
- 8 discussion in reality. Here's the bottom line on how
- 9 Missouri property tax works. If you do have property
- 10 in a taxing jurisdiction you do pay tax to that
- 11 jurisdiction. If you do not have property in a taxing
- 12 jurisdiction then you do not pay tax to that
- 13 jurisdiction. It's that simple.
- 14 Clean Line will only pay property taxes on this
- 15 transmission line to taxing jurisdictions crossed by
- 16 that transmission line. The transmission line will
- 17 miss most of the taxing jurisdictions in Clinton County
- 18 and the State of Missouri.
- 19 I reviewed a document from the Missouri State
- 20 Tax Commission that lists each taxing jurisdiction in
- 21 Clinton County. And the total number of miles in which
- 22 the line will be present in each of these jurisdiction.
- 23 It shows which jurisdiction will and will not receive
- 24 tax revenue. Only those jurisdictions that the line
- 25 passes through will receive tax revenue off of each

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- 1 structures. In review of this document I found that
- 2 the majority of taxing jurisdictions in Clinton County
- 3 will receive zero benefit. All eight cities in Clinton
- 4 County, Cameron, Gower, Holt, Lathrop, Osborn,
- 5 Plattsburg, Trimble and Turney will receive zero
- 6 benefit. All six school districts, Cameron, Osborn,
- 7 Lawson, Carney, Smithville and Stewartsville will
- 8 receive zero benefit. Nine of the 14 Special Road
- 9 Districts in Clinton County will receive zero benefit.
- 10 For the five of them that will receive tax revenue the
- 11 mileage that will generate the revenue in these
- 12 districts is very minuscule. For example, the Cameron
- 13 ambulance district will only receive property tax on
- 14 structures for 1.4 miles of this line. You might as
- 15 well say zero benefit.
- 16 All four road districts, Cameron Special Road
- 17 District; Cameron Voted Road District; Plattsburg
- 18 Special Road District and Plattsburg Voted Road
- 19 District will zero benefit. Although their heavy
- 20 machines I'm sure will tear up our roads so we'll
- 21 probably lose money in those districts. And not on the
- 22 MSTC document but certainly important, the residents
- 23 who will have to live next to this line and look at it
- 24 in perpetuity will receive zero benefit. In
- 25 conclusion, Clean Line points about tax benefits to

Page 52 Missourians are presented with a broad brush stroke 2 based upon incomplete information. They fail to 3 mention the fact that the majority of Missourians will 4 receive little or no tax benefits. Considering the fact that Clinton County will receive no electricity 5 6 from this line, I fail to see either the convenience or 7 necessity of this line to the majority of Clinton 8 County residents. Thank you. 9 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. 10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Ruth Lowenstein. (Witness sworn.) 11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 12 13 and spell your last name. 14 MS. LOWENSTEIN: Ruth Lowenstein, L-o-w-e-n-s-t-e-i-n. 15 16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 17 MS. LOWENSTEIN: Cameron, Missouri. 18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 19 MS. LOWENSTEIN: Thank you for being 20 here today and allowing us to speak. I'm a long time 21 Clinton County resident and I've been in this fight 22 since the beginning. 23 Right now, things that I can do personally is -- one thing I can do is write letters to the editors 24 25 of papers. To let people know what is the going on

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- 1 because a lot of people don't know what's going on.
- 2 I'm a regular contributor to a lot of the papers in
- 3 Clinton County. And last week, I read -- I submitted a
- 4 letter and I read three letters from other people that
- 5 I have never seen letters from other counties, like
- 6 Chariton County and Randolph County. And I want to
- 7 address some of the things that they talked about in
- 8 their letters. They were pro Grain Belt. In all three
- 9 letters it was stated that Grain Belt has a deal to
- 10 provide electricity to a group of Missouri
- 11 municipalities. The municipal utilities estimate this
- 12 wind energy will save their customers more than 10
- 13 million on their electricity bills. That seems like a
- 14 pretty big benefit, right? And it's suppose to effect
- 15 340,000 people in this state.
- 16 Well, I thought, okay, well that sounds really
- 17 good so I started to research it. And I found an
- 18 article from the Hannibal Courier and it was from
- 19 November 25. And it said that it's just been over four
- 20 months since the Hannibal City Council threw it's
- 21 support behind the purchase of wind generated power.
- 22 Should the opportunity to do so ever present itself
- 23 again the lack of headway on the contract from this is
- 24 no fault of the Board of Public Works. A power
- 25 purchase agreement has not materialized, said, Bob

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- 1 Stevenson general manager of the BPW during the
- 2 November 22 meeting of the BPW board. He added that he
- 3 expected to receive -- he had expected to receive at
- 4 least a draft power purchase agreement by early
- 5 November.
- 6 It's hard to approve contract language that you
- 7 haven't seen. So they were in their meetings and
- 8 that's what I found about it. So I thought, well, let
- 9 me see what else I can find on it to see if something
- 10 has changed. I called this Bob Stevenson numerous
- 11 times, left messages, never got a call back. Called
- 12 the public works. Went to the option of zero to try to
- 13 talk to somebody to find out if anything had changed.
- 14 Never got ahold of anybody.
- 15 I researched online and Googled it to find out
- 16 if now this was different. That the contract had come
- 17 through and have been filed. I have not found anything
- 18 to the contrary so far. In all the letters from the
- 19 people that were pro Clean Line, they said that there
- 20 is a lot of misinformation about Clean Line and Grain
- 21 Belt Express put out there.
- 22 You know, reporting that Missouri residents
- 23 would receive a lot of savings and how many people
- 24 would receive it and how much would it be, but there's
- 25 no contract. That seems like misinformation to me.

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- 1 And I would just plead with you guys. I really liked
- 2 your decision last time. And I would plead with you to
- 3 please not give a certificate of convenience and
- 4 necessity to Clean Line. And that's all that I have to
- 5 say.
- 6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Ivan Kanak.
- 7 (Witness sworn.)
- 8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 9 and spell your last name.
- 10 MR. KANAK: My name is Ivan Kanak,
- 11 K-a-n-a-k. Good Irish name.
- 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- MR. KANAK: I'm a not-so-happy resident
- 14 of DeKalb County.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- 16 MR. KANAK: I am a landowner there and
- I must say that over the last 18 months that I've
- 18 learned more about the production and transmission of
- 19 wind generated electricity and the people who run these
- 20 businesses than I ever wanted to know. Having a long
- 21 standing belief that the right of eminent domain is as
- 22 much a moral decision as it is a legal decision. And
- 23 that it was never intended to be granted to private
- 24 enterprise or individuals for their personal gain at
- 25 the expense of the private citizen. I am adamantly

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- 1 opposed to granting this right to the Grain Belt
- 2 Express.
- I have learned over the years that if
- 4 you can't imagine what might happen in a given
- 5 situation then you can't be prepared to deal with it.
- 6 The unintended consequences of any action most often
- 7 create the most problems. There are a number of
- 8 potential problems likely to occur if you grant Grain
- 9 Belt's request.
- 10 First and foremost, I see a dangerous
- 11 precedence being set for future request by private
- 12 companies and individuals. Secondly, I see the
- 13 possibility of the substantial loss in land value and
- 14 property tax income not only along either side of the
- 15 transmission line, but across the entire State of
- 16 Missouri partially due to the fear that the right of
- 17 eminent domain may be granted for any number of
- 18 reasons.
- 19 Common sense is going to suggest to us
- 20 that the presence of the Grain Belt Express will
- 21 attract additional wind energy production complexes to
- 22 be built across the state. To take advantage of the
- 23 easy access to a power line. What will happen to these
- 24 production complexes if the federal subsidies and
- 25 purchase mandates go away. Ask yourself, can they

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- 1 survive on their own or will we become like Germany
- 2 with vast graveyards of wind power attesting to our
- 3 falling.
- 4 These production complexes require
- 5 thousands of acres of land thus effecting property
- 6 values and tax basis even further. The losses can be
- 7 substantial. Last July I heard an expert witness
- 8 testify regarding rural residential values. The
- 9 finding of eight different studies show an average loss
- of 25 to 40% on homes up to three miles from a wind
- 11 tower. That is pretty significant.
- 12 Well, you might say not many people live
- in the country anymore. Certainly if you are people
- 14 who make your living from the land anymore, but we are
- 15 seeing more and more retired people moving back to the
- 16 country and building very nice homes. Many of our
- 17 communities have become bedroom communities. Just last
- 18 Saturday I was on a farm about ten miles southeast of
- 19 Cameron. The owner in is late 40s or early 50s had
- 20 grown up in Northeast Missouri. He moved to Virginia
- 21 and he built a home construction business there over
- 22 the past 20 some years. He's now semi retired, moved
- 23 back to Missouri, operates his Virginia based business
- 24 via the Internet. He lives in a very nice home on a
- 25 gravel road. And to my surprise there were several

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- 1 other very nice homes in that very rural neighborhood.
- 2 These homes are an important tax source to Caldwell
- 3 County. And amazingly, I see the same occurrence in am
- 4 areas around Northwest Missouri.
- Now I can assure you of one thing, bare
- 6 ag land does not yield much in taxes. Six years ago I
- 7 purchased 20 acres that fronts a highway. It had a
- 8 rundown home on it. That year the property taxes
- 9 totaled \$491. I tore the house down. The taxes
- 10 dropped to \$23. This loss to the county does not
- 11 account for the loss of personal property taxes on
- 12 cars, trucks, et cetra, if someone had been living
- 13 there. Bare ag land doesn't yield much in taxes. It
- 14 will not maintain the roads, the schools, the fire
- 15 departments needed in a county. So a slow death spiral
- 16 starts in rural Missouri.
- 17 As I stated earlier, it's the unintended
- 18 consequences that most often create the problems. You
- 19 can avoid these consequences by doing the morally right
- 20 thing and turning down the Grain Belt Express for
- 21 hopefully the final time. Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Glen Klippenstein.
- 23 (Witness sworn.)
- 24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 25 and spell your last name.

Page 59 1 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: My name is Glen, 2 G-l-e-n, Klippenstein, K-l-i-p-p-e-n-s-t-e-i-n. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 4 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: I live in DeKalb 5 County. 6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 7 MR. KLIPPENSTEIN: With that name my 8 wife had a problem, too. You know, I'm one of those that never ceases to be amazed that I probably should 9 10 get over this, by the rich information that is brought 11 about by a hearing like this. 12 Senator, in all your years, did you hear 13 as much -- well, but you personally, when you were a 14 Senator, did you hear that kind of information come from -- only in local America do you get with --15 16 especially when you're being attacked. Then we come to 17 -- and I'll admit what I'm going to say now is a little 18 bit of venting. And if my bride was here, oh boy, 19 would you hear more. So we empathize, we understand 20 what is going on with these people, not only behind us 21 but live in this beautiful God-given country, and 22 county, and state. 23 We have been and are going through in DeKalb County -- now, we've heard that before, a world 24 25 of hurt. Our world has been turned upside down and our

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- 1 community is torn apart. And what is better than
- 2 better neighbors their harmony. That is what this
- 3 world is about and then blang, counterfeit, inefficient
- 4 wind turbines are tearing it apart. As Will
- 5 Rogers would say, it ain't right. The loss of freedom
- 6 and the disappointment in our fellow man has been
- 7 pretty grievous. And we are here because we have an
- 8 obligation to each other to do what's right. It's
- 9 pretty obvious. We do not have an obligation to do the
- 10 bidding of wolves in sheeps clothing. Someone who
- 11 makes promises but often promises false promises and
- 12 loves you when you yield, but threatens and intimidates
- 13 and sues you when you say, no. I grew up in
- 14 slow country. I soon learned that I could trust the
- 15 footprints where they lived better than the words of a
- 16 bully. Who are these people the Grain Belt Express or
- 17 whoever they are? They are dead upon obtaining what
- 18 they want. Are they friends? Are they even our
- 19 citizens? Fellow countrymen?
- Remember, we the people, we the people,
- 21 we're the energy and the power source of our
- 22 communities not wind powers and transmission lines. My
- 23 wise mother often said, don't be where you're not
- 24 wanted. No means no unless it's consensual. This is
- 25 not. They can't force themselves on you even if they

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- 1 are bigger and use means we are not accustomed to.
- 2 This is America.
- 3 We must be steadfast and use our common
- 4 sense, our honesty, our courage and pray a little and
- 5 have confidence that providence will lead to a go end.
- 6 And in this case you made the right decision the first
- 7 time. Thank you very much.
- 8 MR. KENNEY: Senator, I know that was
- 9 difficult since you're such a shy and humble person. I
- 10 appreciate you getting over that and being able to
- 11 express yourself so honestly. As you might remember in
- 12 1994, your successor Congressman Sam Graves and I went
- 13 he went into the senate when you were retiring way too
- 14 soon. I just wanted to thank you for your leadership
- 15 you showed in the senate, the leadership you show in
- 16 your community and your service to this state. Thank
- 17 you very much.
- 18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Glenda Aughinbaugh.
- 19 (Witness sworn.)
- JUDGE BUSHMAN: Please state your name
- 21 and spell your last name.
- MS. AUGHINBAUGH: Glenda Aughinbaugh,
- 23 A-u-g-h-i-n-b-a-u-g-h.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- MS. AUGHINBAUGH: Stewartsville.

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JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 1 2 MS. AUGHINBAUGH: I know that some are 3 proponents of this direct current line having all the 4 benefits of bringing this project to fruition. What I would like to address is, what 5 6 goes away if this happens. I speak from my experience 7 as a landowner impacted by eminent domain. Briefly as 8 a background we own an 80 acre farm where my parents 9 raised their family. Before they passed on, they set 10 up an agreement for us to purchase it. With two 11 children of our own our dilemma then began about to pass it on to both of them. And as we were wrestling 12 with this issue the Midwest transmission line came into 13 14 being. We attended many meetings and evidentially got the letter that our property was to be dissected by the 15 16 line. 17 The land topography slowly drops from 18 the creek to the east of the house. And it has always 19 been a secluded rural area. Now there is a 20 transmission line that accesses by dissecting the lower 21 40 acres. The transmission line ushered is wind 22 turbines. These detail was never spoken at any of the 23 public meetings about the project, but we now know it 24 was most certainly under the table. But anyway, from 25 that house here is now a rather prominent view of the

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- 1 transmission line and wind turbines across the eastern
- 2 sky. With further turbine development possible in this
- 3 unzoned township.
- 4 Previously both of our children's young
- 5 families had interest in living on the property, now
- 6 neither have any desire to be there. Both are located
- 7 in county and watching the development with an eye
- 8 toward relocating if need be somewhere else. So the
- 9 first thing that has gone away in our case is the
- 10 people. When a Grain Belt representative told us at a
- 11 public meeting somewhat incredulously at our
- 12 displeasure with the project, but you will be
- 13 compensated. My response now is, how do you compensate
- 14 a community for making it a less desirable place to
- 15 live.
- Our farm is certainly no longer a
- 17 desirable habitat. Fewer potential buyers mean lowered
- 18 value. If wind turbines or any other industrial
- 19 development along the proposed Grain Belt corridor
- 20 arise be prepared for a further free fall of property
- 21 value, the next of thing that goes away.
- When vital population growth is lost
- 23 dwindling tax revenues cannot simply be made up by the
- 24 promised sums of the developing company. After all
- 25 they have lawyers to be certain that they do not

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- 1 overpay. Tax revenue from lost residents goes away.
- 2 It goes almost without saying that the option of the
- 3 land are forever lost. The land dissecting our farm
- 4 should have the best building spot should the property
- 5 been split a mute point now that neither family cares
- 6 to live there. The easement reads, to have and to hold
- 7 steady easements and rights with all and singular, the
- 8 rights further to inspect and immunities, thereto
- 9 belonging or in anyway of pertaining and to grantee
- 10 forever.
- 11 Ironic that one must actually sign these
- 12 rights away and yet have no choice whether they sign or
- 13 not the world upside down. Another thing that goes
- 14 away is the jobs and the workers as quickly as it came.
- 15 The wind project company here promised 10 full-time
- 16 jobs. Planning promises are just promises. There are
- 17 two permanent jobs and these are filled from outside
- 18 the area.
- 19 This was always the case. The project
- 20 managers always knew, but promising the community many
- 21 things works best for getting these investment projects
- 22 moving along.
- 23 Lastly, we fully expect the wildlife to
- 24 go away in proximity. Wildlife like all life is
- 25 sensitive to the change of the electromagnetic field.

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- 1 Only they are free to move away. What we cannot move
- 2 is our herd of cattle or the well located directly
- 3 under line which KCP&L promised to address if it should
- 4 impact their transmission line in anyway.
- 5 So what goes away when this development
- 6 comes into a community, people, but especially the next
- 7 generations of residents in our case. Property values
- 8 any other options for the use of the land forever.
- 9 Wildlife and the health of livestock. These are all
- 10 expenses never calculated by the investors on their
- 11 spreadsheet.
- This is a cost that no community should
- 13 have to bear. Simply so those with money to invest in
- 14 assets with public tax credits at the expense of the
- 15 citizens who live and breathe and work and die on a
- 16 piece of earth they used to feel blessed to inhabit.
- 17 Researchers in the field of
- 18 environmental psychology have found that viewing open
- 19 free landscapes has a profound positive impact on both
- 20 our mental and physical health.
- 21 What if we had the foresight like
- 22 Switzerland which provides massive subsidies to farmers
- 23 willing to maintain open pastural landscapes in its
- 24 mountains. Here in the U.S. developmental companies
- 25 make sure they press all the right buttons so that most

Page 66 folks are blind and prevented from actually 2 contemplating what goes away. Thank you for your time. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. That will 4 be Number 45. (Exhibit No. 45 marked for identification.) 5 6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Next witness is Johnny 7 Walker. (Witness sworn.) 8 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 10 and spell your last name. 11 MR. WALKER: My name is Johnny Walker, W-a-l-k-e-r. 12 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 14 MR. WALKER: In DeKalb County near Osborn, Missouri. 15 16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 17 MR. WALKER: First of all, I want to 18 thank you Public Service Commission for giving me the 19 time to speak with you today. A little background on me. I'm a third generation farmer here in DeKalb 20 21 County. And my livelihood comes from the land. So I 22 think that's important to hear from the people who live 23 here. 24 I wanted to say, Number 1, I'm firmly 25 against the proposed Grain Belt transmission line and

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- 1 the proposed granting of eminent domain to a private
- 2 company. I think that is wrong on many, many reasons.
- 3 Let's get down to the facts here. The
- 4 reason we're here and these utility companies are here
- 5 for one reason, production tax credits. You've heard
- 6 that before in many of the other speakers, but
- 7 production tax credits are the reason why these
- 8 utilities are here. We're dealing here in DeKalb
- 9 County with a windmill company, wind turbine company
- 10 NextEra. 97 wind turbines are now being erected here
- 11 and based on the output of the megawatt proposal of the
- 12 wind turbines. Of those 97 wind turbines here in
- 13 DeKalb County over 10 million in production tax credits
- 14 will be given annually to NextEra.
- 15 Nothing like a golden parachute to help
- 16 out our good neighbors. Well, you know, us and private
- 17 business do not have that. If we make a decision we
- 18 either -- we're in a risk management. If we make a bad
- 19 decision we have to suffer the consequences. Well,
- 20 that's not the case here. Obviously, they have a
- 21 golden parachute and can do what they want because they
- 22 know they have the federal government backing them on
- 23 inefficient, unreliable wind energy.
- 24 Us in DeKalb County and Clinton County
- 25 last summer had 4 1/2 months of sworn testimony under

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- 1 oath and we were all educated in the harmful effects of
- 2 wind turbines. While we understood that this testimony
- 3 was under oath it was an educational process. We
- 4 learned that wind turbines cause many detrimental
- 5 effects. Number 1, stray voltage. Stray voltage to
- 6 livestock can be a big deterrent to hear people in the
- 7 grand society we have here in Northwest Missouri.
- 8 Health effects to individuals. It effects different
- 9 people in different ways.
- 10 Number 3, noise. There's a big noise
- 11 issue with wind turbines. Obviously, the farther away
- 12 they go the better off you are, but the education is,
- 13 these turbines were set up 1,400 feet from the
- 14 residential dwelling not the property line, that's a
- 15 big, big difference on the noise level occurring with
- 16 wind turbines.
- Okay. Number 4, the killing of
- 18 wildlife. As Bill Saunders appropriately said, 21 wind
- 19 turbines are now being placed around Pony Express
- 20 wildlife area sensitive conservation area that is dear
- 21 to our hearts in DeKalb County. Total disregard of the
- 22 recommendations of the Missouri Department of
- 23 Conservation. Some of these are less than a quarter
- 24 mile from the conservation area. So what is the going
- 25 to happen to our eagles, our swans, our ducks our

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- 1 geese? Obviously, we're going to have big, big issues.
- 2 500 foot turbines, 160 foot blades. We're going to
- 3 have big, big issues with killing the wildlife.
- 4 And the big thing is reduction of
- 5 property values. We had one of the speakers who is an
- 6 expert in property values. Mike McCann speech that a
- 7 reduce in property values reduce values if a wind
- 8 turbine was within three miles of your property line.
- 9 That should scare everyone here.
- 10 In summation here, in condemning the 500
- 11 acres for a private company is wrong for eminent
- 12 domain. I beg you to listen to the people here in
- 13 Northwest Missouri. It's high time that the production
- 14 tax credits were eliminated and the government should
- 15 not be in the business of picking winners and losers.
- 16 Thank you very much.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: We have been going for
- 18 a while so we're going to take a short break. We'll be
- 19 in recess for about ten minutes.
- 20 (Recess.)
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: We're back on the
- 22 record.
- One thing to take care of. I believe you had
- 24 an exhibit you wanted to enter? And that would be
- 25 Exhibit 46.

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(Exhibit No. 46 marked for identification.) 1 2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. The next witness we have on the list is Bud Wilkerson 3 4 (Witness sworn.) JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 5 6 and spell your last name. 7 MR. WILKERSON: Bud Wilkerson, W-i-l-k-e-r-s-o-n. 8 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live, sir? 10 MR. WILKERSON: Over there in Gower and right across the Gower cemetery. Which is very handy. 11 12 Okay. You give me five minutes and that's more minutes 13 than my wife ever gives me. I appreciate it. 14 You know, we're facing a problem. We have questions and we have answers. In the book of 15 16 Daniel, that's in the Bible of Old Testament, there's 17 three men Hebrew boys, there's Me-shack, My-shack and 18 the Bed-I-qo. I'm getting your attention because I 19 don't want you to go to sleep. I've now got four minutes and 20 seconds. 20 21 Now Nebakanezer looked at that fiery 22 furnace that they heated up seven times, the guards 23 died because it was so hot. You got more than four people here don't you? And you're going to make a 24 25 decision that's going to effect these people. You

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- 1 guys, it's in your hands. But the thing about is that
- 2 I live on a small farm, 140 acres which is small. It's
- 3 going south of my farm. Three towers and eight acres
- 4 they tell me.
- 5 Now I went to the meeting at Grain Belt
- 6 Express and it was all positive. They told me how much
- 7 I'm going to get. Well, my wife has already spent that
- 8 Saturday. So I'm going to get nothing. Do you know
- 9 what I mean? The thing about it is that they tell me
- 10 how much, so big deal. We're coming back from
- 11 St. Joe on 169, thereby the interstate batteries with
- 12 there power lines in there, right? My wife put it in
- 13 810 radio, sports because we wanted to know if we won
- 14 the football games, you know. And the thing about it
- is as we're going down on the radio, and we're going
- 16 like this "Zoop, zoop, zoop", and it's on a power line.
- 17 Now if I got the voltage that's coming through there
- 18 but they cannot bury it in the ground because there's
- 19 too much voltage because I asked. And I look out the
- 20 window and I'm going to hear to here "Zoop, zoop,
- 21 zoop".
- Now that's not going to put me to sleep.
- 23 It's my bedtime right now and that's not going to put
- 24 me to asleep. Okay? And the thing about it is you're
- 25 going to make a decision that's going to effect these

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- 1 people and myself. Now I hope it's the right decision
- 2 because what they told me I said, hey, if you get them
- 3 power lines through my farm? What if they become
- 4 obsolete? I don't know. What if a tornado or high
- 5 wind would knock down one of those three poles? Well,
- 6 I don't know.
- 7 What is eminent domain? Well, we can go
- 8 in there and put them power lines in there and --
- 9 anytime we want to. Because what you have done, you
- 10 have signed over eight acres that's ours. We can do
- 11 anything we want to. What if it don't go through and
- 12 what if it's isolated and you don't work anymore. Why
- don't you just put a junkyard in there? Well, that
- 14 would benefit the power. How? Well they'd sell used
- 15 parts. Well, why don't we put a landfill in there?
- 16 Well, that would benefit power because people put their
- 17 trash in there and they wouldn't have to pay for trash
- 18 hauling.
- 19 You see what they say is positive to get
- 20 you thinking it's a good deal. And you guys have got
- 21 to decide if it's a good deal for these people. I'm
- 22 glad you're deciding because I've already decided. I
- 23 would say no, n-o not k-n-o-w. Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMAN: Next name I think is
- 25 Kevin Bootner or --

1 MR. BUTNER: Yes.	
2 (Witness sworn.)	
3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name	
4 and spell your last name.	
5 MR. BUTNER: Kevin Butner, B-u-t-n-e-r.	
6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?	
7 MR. BUTNER: Macon, Missouri.	
8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
9 MR. BUTNER: My name is Kevin Butner and	
10 I'm a live long entrepreneur who currently works and	
11 manage a small concrete hauling business in Macon. We	
12 are not proponents of eminent domain by any means.	
13 However we are positive towards having new business and	
14 opportunities coming to North Missouri.	
15 We think that the Express representative	
16 who is invested in North Missouri besides our expanded	
17 highways. We have not seen any tremendous amount of	
18 economic progress in this area for the last several	
19 decades. In fact in the 1990s the General Assembly	
20 lifted the ban on corporate farming in the state of	
21 Missouri counties to keep local economy from going into	
22 shambles to maintain the basic services in our area.	
23 Not much has changed. And I fear that the next	
24 economic down trend will continue the trends here with	
25 fewer people choosing to make North Missouri their home	

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- 1 because of a lack of opportunity.
- 2 Today less than 5% of Missouri's
- 3 population calls Northern Missouri their home, and in
- 4 fact both my daughters have left. I understand this
- 5 project isn't bit by the local majority, but its
- 6 obvious to me that in some areas it is very good and to
- 7 the state's public interest to the jobs that it
- 8 hopefully will create. The tax base it may provide and
- 9 cheap energy it will send to the cities like the one I
- 10 live in.
- 11 Green energy is also something
- 12 businesses are looking for. In our hometown we have a
- 13 large ConAgra factory that would appreciate the
- 14 opportunity to have green energy to meet their own
- 15 company standards. They are seeking ways to put this
- 16 type of information on the labeling of their products.
- 17 This project would help make that happen. I realize
- 18 that not everyone likes change. We haven't had a lot
- 19 of it in our area for the last 50 years. What progress
- 20 we have seen in North Missouri is limited and we have
- 21 gotten so used to seeing things deteriorate that we
- 22 start to distrust anything that could possibly bring
- 23 our sons and daughters back home to work because it's
- 24 different than our agricultural past.
- 25 The small town company that I work for

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- 1 has been very vocal in its support of the project in
- 2 the past and because we want to keep people employed.
- 3 Families are relying somewhat on us. There's not many
- 4 options for the moms and dads that work for us if
- 5 things slow down. These families in Chauvin and Macon
- 6 and other towns that are purchasing power from this
- 7 line would appreciate it in their pocketbooks as well.
- 8 We have been told that the folks aren't going to use
- 9 our services anymore because we support the project.
- 10 We still stand and we feel like it's for the greater
- 11 good.
- 12 I'm told that the Clean Line will make
- 13 available 200 megawatt towers of power for Missouri.
- 14 Of this 200 megawatt, 4% will drop to the town I live
- in, giving us \$20 megawatt energy, as opposed to the 60
- and \$70 megawatt energy we currently purchase. 34
- 17 other Missouri communities should be able to enjoy the
- 18 savings as well. This type of money that we're talking
- 19 about would help schools retire bonds and give teachers
- 20 some raises that are desperately needed. We all need
- 21 more new sources of power that is good for our
- 22 environment and our real communities. Thanks.
- MS. COLEMAN: Mr. Butner?
- MR. BUTNER: Yes.
- 25 MS. COLEMAN: Would you come back to the

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microphone, please. 2 MR. BUTNER: Sure. 3 MS. COLEMAN: You brought up the tax I'd like to ask you a question about it. 4 Because a little earlier I addressed Mr. Burdick who 5 talked about revenue for school taxes and was of the 6 7 opinion that the promise in jobs and revenue for school 8 taxes and monies that might go to there county isn't 9 really there. So in your support of this have you or 10 your company looked at how the tax base will be helped? MR. BUTNER: I'm not sure how that tax 11 base was figured and how it came about. The numbers 12 13 that I have seen are from Monroe County and it was to 14 the tune of some six and seven digit numbers. I happen to know some of those schools 15 16 have large bonds for their schools and so that is why 17 we are positive or hopeful that they could put those 18 bonds to rest and give teachers raises in these very rural communities. 19 20 MS. COLEMAN: Okay. Thank you for your 21 information. 22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Dean Snodgrass. 23 (Witness sworn.) 24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 25 and spell your last name.

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1 MR. SNODGRASS: Dean Snodgrass, 2 S-n-o-d-q-r-a-s-s. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live, 4 sir? 5 MR. SNODGRASS: I live in Clinton 6 County, northern part. 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 8 MR. SNODGRASS: First, I want to thank 9 the Chairman and members of the Commission. I will 10 give a little introduction about myself. I was born in Plattsburg, Missouri, Clinton County. My parents moved 11 to St. Joe in about 1937. I was born in '34 so you can 12 13 assume I'll be 83-year-olds. Where lived on the farm, 14 my brother and I for many years. When we lived there our grandparents lived there. In fact, my wife and our 15 16 grandchildren are the 8th generation to walk on the 17 land. That's the not very much -- there's not many 18 people who can say that. We have lived on the farm, we 19 built a house in 1991. And my wife and I are 20 definitely against Clean Line putting towers, massive 21 towers on the land. 22 I'm going to go a little bit different. 23 I am against eminent domain. But farming at the best is a tough job. We have a lot of consider and we have 24 25 no control. One is the weather. Good or bad. Like

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- 1 last year it rain constantly. A lot of acres didn't
- 2 get planted. Some years are dry and that is a problem.
- 3 The high cost of machinery and replacement is high.
- 4 Now we have got another input the everlasting towers
- 5 that cross the land. That will additionally make
- 6 farming hard to do. In other word, we might say that
- 7 we are all, everyone here, are stewards of the land.
- 8 We, each of us here, are responsible for what we do.
- 9 Will Clean Line tear down with a bulldozer a butch of
- 10 trees? Trees that provide wind, shelter for animals.
- 11 Will they clean up the air that we breathe? I just
- 12 don't see how that can be.
- We are temporary owners of the land.
- 14 We, that make a living on the land have been there for
- 15 years and years. But actually we are just there a
- 16 short time. And each of us who own land has a
- 17 responsibility to farm the land properly such as a
- 18 proper amount of pesticides and herbicides.
- 19 Also I might say that I've heard just a
- 20 few minutes ago about getting money to schools but I
- 21 don't want to sound pessimistic, but I think some of
- the school problems is a result of maybe the school
- 23 boards and not so much the teachers. I think the
- 24 school boards should worry more more about teaching
- 25 academic lessons and worry less about last weeks ball

Page 79 score would be better. 2 So I imagine there are CEOs in several 3 companies up on the corner office in big cities 4 wondering, well, what do these people want? Well, I'll tell you what I want and I think what they want. We 5 6 just want to be left alone. 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Carolyn Lovelace. 8 (Witness sworn.) 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 10 and spell your last name. MS. LOVELACE: Carolyn Lovelace, 11 12 L-o-v-e-l-a-c-e. 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 14 MS. LOVELACE: Lathrop, Missouri. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 15 16 MS. LOVELACE: Clinton County, Missouri. 17 Yes, I live in Lathrop and own a farm in Turney, 18 Missouri. Both are an Clinton County. I'm here to 19 testify on behalf of my parents who are no longer here 20 to protest and protect their land. I'm here to testify 21 for my children who currently reside on the farm. And 22 for myself the landowner of this land. 23 This is land that we have all loved and held close like it was another family member. 24 25 parents worked hard to purchase and to develop the

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- 1 farm. You might state that with their blood, sweat and
- 2 tears. It is so heart breaking to see this land taken
- 3 over possibly by a private for-profit company. One who
- 4 is set to make maybe millions even billions of dollars
- 5 at the expensive of remote people. It will basically
- 6 ruin the value of my farm. There are 86 acres which
- 7 will be divided right across the middle of this land.
- 8 It will render it useless for several activities. Had
- 9 we thought about building a new home there, yes.
- 10 Wouldn't want to do that now.
- 11 My son had thought about possibly making
- 12 an airstrip. No, can't do that. Now the air spray
- 13 that someone else mentioned, no. Those are just a few
- 14 of the concerns that would be created if the power
- 15 lines go through this land. I would feel it would be
- 16 very difficult and maybe impossible to sell this
- 17 property with these monstrosities in the middle of the
- 18 land. Should we choose to sell the property, it would
- 19 be a great financial loss.
- The towers and line will also be placed
- 21 way too close and farm house where my daughter,
- 22 son-in-law and grandchildren live. How dangerous would
- 23 this be to their health. Also a major gas line, two of
- 24 them just on the other side of the fence. What
- 25 potential dangers could present themselves under the

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- 1 right or the worst conditions of this power line and
- 2 this gas line be so close together. Do we know the
- 3 answer to this? It's a big concern to us. What if a
- 4 tornado came through and took down the lines? It's too
- 5 close to the house for these power lines for that to
- 6 happen. How dangerous would it be under those
- 7 conditions? All of this because of private for-profit
- 8 company wants to build across our line and our land.
- 9 How is this fair? It takes away our
- 10 home our investment. And they are willing to make
- 11 money off of that. How fair or morally right is this?
- 12 I very respectfully ask how would you feel if it were
- 13 your home or your land? If we in Missouri needed the
- 14 power to survive in our homes and light our homes and
- 15 could not do this without this land and this line maybe
- 16 I would look at it differently. However that is the
- 17 not the case. If the residents up east need the power
- 18 let them build their own windmills. Generate their own
- 19 power. Erect their own towers. And string their own
- 20 power lines.
- 21 Please do not let any private for-profit
- 22 company ruin what can and may be the devastation of
- 23 some of my neighbor's livelihood. Thank you for your
- 24 time.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Sean Millard.

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1	(Witness sworn.)	
2	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name	
3	and spell your last name.	
4	MR. MILLARD: Sean Millard,	
5	M-i-l-l-a-r-d.	
6	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?	
7	MR. MILLARD: Lathrop, Missouri.	
8	Clinton County.	
9	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
10	MR. MILLARD: I'd like to start out with	
11	a question to you guys because you are the ones that	
12	are voting on this matter. Did you say no or did you	
13	say maybe the first time you voted? It was "no"	
14	correct?	
15	MS. COLEMAN: Can I answer that. Let me	
16	have the microphone, please. Let me have the	
17	microphone. Let me have the microphone.	
18	Mr. Millard, we can't answer any	
19	questions.	
20	MR. MILLARD: Okay.	
21	MS. COLEMAN: We get to ask.	
22	MR. MILLARD: Well, that was fun.	
23	MS. COLEMAN: I want to have fun with	
24	you because you came to have fun. I can tell.	
25	MR. MILLARD: If you people knew of the	

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- 1 day, yesterday ever in your life, your welcome, says
- 2 every farmer that produced and landowners that provided
- 3 a place for those crops to be produced. Some of you in
- 4 fact and generally on that side from out of town that
- 5 prefer soy milk and tofu -- or local farmers the most
- 6 -- but you're being paid to say otherwise.
- 7 The only people directly affected by the
- 8 energy transmission line will be the actual landowners
- 9 and their neighbors whether in accounting or otherwise.
- 10 I have not and I will probably never talk to a
- 11 landowner from Clinton County that actually is in favor
- 12 of this. Those are the people that are being effected.
- 13 It's no one else. We are bringing power from someone
- 14 that has it in Western Kansas to the East Coast where
- 15 they say they need it, like everybody else has said,
- 16 let them make their own decisions based on that not,
- 17 make decisions for us.
- I guess that's it. I'm really surprised
- 19 that we're here talking about this. I can't believe
- 20 that you guys have the opportunity to take our land
- 21 away from us that everyone has worked hard to keep and
- 22 maintain. And you guys have the opportunity to take
- 23 that away from us. So please make the right decision.
- 24 Any questions?
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Alex Galan.

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1 (Witness sworn.) 2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 3 and spell your last name. 4 MR. GALAN: Alex Galan, G-a-l-a-n. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 5 6 MR. GALAN: Overland Park, Kansas, but I 7 am a Missouri native. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 8 9 MR. GALAN: For the past 15 years I have 10 worked with PAR Electrical Contractors. PAR's a Missouri corporation with major offices in Kansas City, 11 St. Louis with over 600 local employees. PAR has over 12 60 years experience in engineering and constructing 13 14 power lines throughout the U.S. If this project is approved, PAR will be the primary contractor. 15 16 Clean Line is committed to showing 17 Missourians jobs through it's agreement with PAR and 18 three other Missourian manufacturers. Hubbell Power 19 Systems, GEE and General Cable. The Clean Line 20 agreement with PAR demonstrates how Clean Line and PAR 21 will work together to put Missourians to work to build 22 new and electric infrastructures that will benefit 23 Missourians for decades to come. Projects like this are key to keeping Missouri crews working at a steady 24 25 pace. This project if approved will support more than

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- 1 1,500 jobs each year for the construction of the Grain
- 2 Belt Express Line.
- For the life of the project, that's over
- 4 10 million man-hours, taxable man-hours for state and
- 5 federal. Many of these jobs will be good paying union
- 6 jobs for local IPW members. Our local unions 53 in
- 7 Kansas City and Number 2 in St. Louis.
- 8 Additionally, significant revenues
- 9 throughout the construction will be realized locally
- 10 for lodging, fuel, supplies, restaurants, repair shops,
- 11 et cetera. All of that will be beneficial for the
- 12 local community. On a large scale this project will
- 13 save participating municipal utilities over \$10 million
- 14 in energy costs. It will also provide long-term
- 15 benefits to communities and schools providing more than
- 16 \$7.2 million in taxes to support the schools and public
- 17 services in eight Missouri counties In the first year
- 18 of operation. And it will continue to provide property
- 19 taxes for the life of the project.
- The Grain Belt Express Clean Line is
- 21 with great importance to Missouri and to our country.
- 22 Hard people have worked forward to bring it to fruition
- 23 and to serve Missouri communities. And I would also
- 24 like to say that I've heard that there's concern with
- 25 regards to the care for the local land when

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- 1 construction activities are being undertaken. PAR has
- 2 an outstanding relationship and experience with regards
- 3 to protecting land. We have built transmission lines
- 4 all across the U.S. in highly sensitive environmental
- 5 areas. We have worked with landowners all over the
- 6 country and have deep respect for them. I hope you
- 7 approve this project.
- 8 Thank you.
- 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Joe Laney.
- 10 Joe Laney. Evon Hales.
- 11 (Witness sworn.)
- 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 13 and spell your last name?.
- MS. HALES: Evon Hales, H-a-l-e-s.
- 15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- MS. HALES: I live in Johnson County,
- 17 but I own land in Clinton County. And my family still
- 18 lives in Clinton County near Plattsburg.
- 19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- 20 MS. HALES: Mr. Chairman and members of
- 21 the Commission, my family has been in Missouri since
- 22 before the Civil War. We have been generations of
- 23 farmers, taxpayers and good stewards of this land, but
- 24 today we are very concerned that a dangerous precedence
- 25 will be to allow a for-profit company to take private

Page 87 land to enhance there corporate dollar. This is a 2 slippery slope. Where will it end? 3 We will be opening a door that will 4 allow for additional corporations seeking profits to take over more and more private land. We have seen 5 this with the oil and gas pipelines. First there was 7 one that came in then a second and now we have four 8 pipelines. The next thing that happened was this, with 9 these for-profit activities. This won't be the last. 10 As other companies see the profit potential they will 11 be asking for the same thing. And if the precedence is 12 set there might not be anything to stop it. And as we 13 have seen, these companies have huge resources, money, 14 lawyers, corporate taxes for experts. But the resources are there to maximize company profits not 15 16 ensure a win/win for the people of Missouri or the state of Missouri. 17 18 I ask that you not allow Clean Line to 19 take private Missouri land to enhance their company 20 profits and open a door we won't be able to close. 21 Thank you. 22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. 23 Rump.

(Witness sworn.)

JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name

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24

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and spell your last name. 2 MR. RUMP: Mike Rump, R-u-m-p. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? MR. RUMP: Overland Park, Kansas. 4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 5 6 MR. RUMP: Yes. My name is Mike Rump 7 and I work for PAR Electric and have since 2008. Prior 8 to that, I worked in the electric utility business for 9 really more years than I care to admit. But I'm here 10 in support of this project. I want to note what Alex Galan said and support that. You know, I think there 11 are some benefits to this project. As he's noted there 12 are employees with PAR which is a Missouri company with 13 people that live and work in Missouri that will be 14 involved in building this project. 15 16 You build a project of this size there 17 are assets that are subject to tax. The tax will be paid. How it's allocated is obviously subject to 18 19 Missouri law in that subject. But it will be something 20 that adds tax revenue to the communities. 21 Clean Line has developed an agricultural 22 impact mitigation protocol for this project. That's to 23 ensure that landowners are treated with respect. their land is treated with respect. And I can 24

certainly say that dealing with property owners and

25

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- 1 landowners honoring your commitments that you make us
- 2 keep will certainly, to the extent I'm or PARs involved
- 3 in that, and we intend to do that. So those are my
- 4 comments. If you have an questions?
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you very much.
- 6 Pat
- 7 Lawlor.
- 8 (Witness sworn.)
- 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 10 and spell your last name.
- 11 MR. LAWLOR: Pat Lawlor, L-a-w-l-o-r.
- 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- 13 MR. LAWLOR: Clinton County just north
- 14 of Plattsburg.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- 16 MR. LAWLOR: Mr. Chairman, members of
- 17 the Missouri Public Service Commission, my name is Pat
- 18 Lawlor and I currently own and reside on a farm located
- 19 in Clinton County. And coming forward to speak against
- 20 the Clean Line Grain Belt power line project that has
- 21 been proposed for Clinton County. First thing I'm
- 22 going to do is to thank all members of the Public
- 23 Commission for giving the citizens the opportunity to
- 24 voice our opinions on the Clean Line project.
- 25 Second, I don't believe that any foreign owned company,

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- 1 private company has any eminent domain rights in our
- 2 country regardless of the reason they own the request,
- 3 off the top. I am an FAA commercial rated pilot and
- 4 own an airplane that is based at the Plattsburg Airport
- 5 in Clinton County. As Mr. Elliott said earlier, if you
- 6 review those paths of the Grain Belt power line it will
- 7 pass two miles north of the Plattsburg Airport and four
- 8 miles south of my residence. Without a doubt tall
- 9 tower structures and high power lines do not belong in
- 10 proximity of general aviation aircraft flight paths.
- 11 Finally, when can we say enough is
- 12 enough. During the past ten years our county has
- 13 granted eminent domain rights to pipelines, several
- 14 pipelines that have dissected our county. And we've
- 15 given eminent domain rights to KCP&L to install a high
- 16 voltage power line that runs directly across our
- 17 county. Our neighboring county, DeKalb has installed
- 18 over 95, 500-foot tall wind turbines located -- well
- 19 starting within one mile of our northern boundary of
- 20 our county. Clinton County is currently in a court
- 21 battle as we speak trying to keep wind turbines out of
- 22 our county. In conclusion, please keep Grain Belt
- 23 Clean power lines out of Clinton County.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Dave
- 25 Curtis.

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1 (Witness sworn.) 2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 3 and spell your last name. 4 MR. CURTIS: Dave Curtis, C-u-r-t-i-s. 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 6 MR. CURTIS: Cameron. 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 8 MR. CURTIS: I'll started out by saying 9 that I don't think I can out do Glenn back here. My 10 family came here with the first settlers to DeKalb County. And I have family that owns -- we own ground 11 in Clinton and DeKalb County right now. And we're not 12 very proud of DeKalb County. We've had a terrible 13 14 year. It's probably been -- I've heard it compared to as bad a time as the Civil War, somebody said. 15 16 We can't have any of us know that because it was a long 17 time ago. Our county has been literally destroyed with 18 wind turbine project. Neighbor against neighbor. So a 19 year ago I didn't know anything about wind turbines and 20 a guy told me he said, you need to open your mind. 21 I started studying. I know a lot now. I know that it 22 takes a big power line to have wind turbines. And 23 that's the first step. We saw the Trans Source power line come in. And it came through our county and it 24 25 came through Clinton County. It was eminent domain.

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- 1 And at the hearing here in Cameron over
- 2 two years ago at the public service hearing, I talked
- 3 to a lot of people. I wasn't there. There was no
- 4 mention of wind turbines at that hearing I was told.
- 5 So I got to looking up documents and I looked up a lot.
- 6 And I finally found a document filed with the federal
- 7 government. And it was a 12 page document, I believe,
- 8 a permit document. And right towards the end of that
- 9 document there was two sentences I found that said,
- 10 "The Trans Source line will have the capacity for three
- 11 to 5,000 wind turbines." So it wasn't mentioned but it
- 12 was hidden.
- 13 So I want everybody in this room to know
- 14 why we're here today in my opinion. It's the
- 15 production tax credit and without it you have no wind
- 16 turbine projects. It's been allowed to expire several
- 17 times. In 2012 it expired and for six months there was
- 18 no new start-ups of wind turbine projects. So I don't
- 19 know if the people in the back of the room. I'm sure
- 20 they know that. The production tax credit is very
- 21 important. It drives these projects.
- NextEra shows \$32 billion in assets.
- 23 And a CEO that makes 14 million a year according to
- 24 there web site. Yet this project up here with 97
- 25 turbines, I did some figuring. They make \$23 a

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- 1 megawatt hour after that starts turning up there from
- 2 this production tax credit from the federal government.
- 3 So we figured that up. They're going to make \$10
- 4 million a year, NextEra is, they are going to get a
- 5 check from the federal government. You can call it
- 6 subsidies or tax credits it's the same. It comes from
- 7 the Treasury Department. That's going to be \$100
- 8 million.
- 9 Hey people, for just that one little
- 10 project up here. So we're talking about this big power
- 11 line which they're going to build. I don't want to see
- 12 all these counties go through hell like we did here
- 13 because first, we don't need the power from wind
- 14 turbines. I worked at the I-10 coal plant and built
- 15 the unit, too. The old schools was to build power
- 16 plants by the cities where they need it. We don't need
- 17 much power out here. That worked real well, but we --
- 18 our administration seems to think that didn't work too
- 19 well, so now they're going to destroy our rural
- 20 communities with power lines and wind turbines. Not
- 21 happy about it.
- 22 And I don't want eminent domain. I'm
- 23 not in favor of it for this power line. So thank you
- 24 all for listening to me. I can go on a lot longer.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Cheryl

Page 94 Needham. 2 (Witness sworn.) 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 4 and spell your last name. MS. NEEDHAM: Cheryl, C-h-e-r-y-l. 5 6 Needham, N-e-e-d-h-a-m. I live in Clinton County and I 7 own a farm there. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 8 9 MS. NEEDHAM: My property was one of the 10 first ones that Grain Belt was considering building a line across and so I began to educate myself on what 11 that would mean and what advantages or disadvantages 12 would be involved. 13 14 So I'm a city kid that's transplanted to a farm. And so from a city kid's perspective land is 15 16 just open land and good grief, why do the farmers need 17 all that land. I mean, can't they just spare a little 18 string here and there? It won't make a big difference, 19 right? 20 Well, dog gone it I moved on to a farm 21 and my perspective of my farm making me money changed. 22 So when I began to look at what Grain Belt had to offer 23 me I realized that it was more about -- we're talking about convenience and necessity so it seemed like the 24 25 convenience was who's pocket was the money going to go

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- 1 in. And you know honestly I'm a for-profit farmer and
- 2 I like the money to go into my pocket. It's a good
- 3 thing. So I'm not opposed to people making money, but
- 4 I do think that there is a problem if the money is
- 5 being transferred out of my wages into somebody else's
- 6 wages. So one of the things that I have
- 7 realized is my farm uses my wages. Once I have a power
- 8 line that goes across my farm it reduces my wages. It
- 9 reduces what I can do with the land. Maybe I want to
- 10 build houses on my land because my farmer husband is
- 11 also a builder. Maybe I'll be a high rise in London.
- 12 So we can sell off a part of our land and would it be
- 13 large parcels and we could build big houses but that
- 14 was where the power line was going to go.
- 15 So if the power lines go in there nobody
- 16 is going to buy an expensive house sitting under a
- 17 power line. They just don't want it. That's not what
- 18 they're looking for. Maybe in the city that wouldn't
- 19 be bad, but not in the country. That's the -- they're
- 20 looking for something different. My retirement is tied
- 21 to my property. So if you change my property and you
- 22 reduce the value of my property you have taken away
- 23 from my retirement.
- So I respect the people that want to
- 25 have their wages increased by having the power lines

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- 1 run. But the problem is they are increasing their
- 2 wages at the expense of reducing my wage. They're not
- 3 losing their retirement, a portion of it, I am. I
- 4 think that there's something a little out of sink with
- 5 that because if I'm a for-profit and they're a
- 6 for-profit but it's my land where does that eminent
- 7 domain come in? I think that it needs to be very
- 8 seriously considered.
- 9 I'm wondering what guarantee do you have
- 10 from Grain Belt that they are not going to become
- 11 defunct like some of these other power lines that were
- 12 built. And now they're either not operating or they're
- 13 just in a state of disarray. This is happening in the
- 14 United States and other parts of world. But no one is
- 15 taking them down. They're still there, they're just
- 16 not doing anything.
- 17 I have been to a number of hearings and
- 18 I've heard Grain Belt Express claim that they have a
- 19 lot of customers. If they have a lot of customers why
- 20 would they need eminent domain to take land away from
- 21 me and reduce my wages, reduce my retirement? I wonder
- 22 sometimes about the fact that the Missouri Department
- 23 of Transportation, if I understand it correctly, has
- 24 decided they don't want Grain Belt Express to build
- 25 along their highways because they're concerned about

Page 97 the damage. 2 If that's the case, why is it okay to 3 build close to a house? If power lines can't be built 4 near a school, why is it okay to build it near someone's home? 5 6 I'm excited that you all have given this 7 opportunity to talk to you today and I do really 8 appreciate it. And I want to remember something that 9 is very important and that is Merry Christmas. And I 10 hope that you guys have a marvelous time with your families whereever it is that you live in the beautiful 11 state of Missouri. Thank you so much. 12 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Lynn 14 Hoggatt. 15 (Witness sworn.) 16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name and spell your last name. 17 18 MS. HOGGATT: Linda Hoggatt, 19 H-o-g-g-a-t-t. 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 21 MS. HOGGATT: And I live on southwest 22 Platt Road which sits in DeKalb County right across 23 from the road -- it cuts us in half, part of our land is also in Clinton County. So we're right on the 24 25 DeKalb, Clinton County line. As a Missouri

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- 1 landowner I am asking this Commission to deny public
- 2 utility status to Grain Belt Express Clean Line Energy,
- 3 to construct a high voltage transmission line across
- 4 our state.
- 5 Granting eminent domain to a private
- 6 company which is not a public utility would set a never
- 7 ending precedent whereby landowners would be forced to
- 8 give up property rights for reasons of little or no
- 9 benefit to them personally. On our Clinton County
- 10 property across from our home we already have been
- 11 forced to accept Kansas City Power & Light transmission
- 12 lines against our will to enable NextEra Energy, to
- invade DeKalb County with 97, 500-foot wind turbines.
- 14 Many of which have been erected on adjoining and nearby
- 15 farms where our home is place on the DeKalb, Clinton
- 16 County line.
- Due to these projects our landscape is
- 18 unrecognizable and changed forever. Clinton County's
- 19 planning and zoning board allowed months of expert
- 20 testimony and heard landowners concerns before banning
- 21 industrial wind complex construction in Clinton County.
- 22 After witnessing every one of these testimonies I am
- 23 convinced that wind energy movement is nothing more
- 24 than a money grab made possible through government
- 25 subsidies. I feel this applies to Grain Belt Express

Page 99 as well. 2 Why should landowners give up rights to 3 their land and receive so little benefit. Thank you so 4 much for your time. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Bruce Moss. 5 6 (Witness sworn.) 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 8 and spell your last name. 9 MR. MOSS: Bruce Moss, M-o-s-s. 10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? MR. MOSS: South of Stewartsville. 11 12 Clinton County. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 13 14 MS. MOSS: Thank you Commissioners for taking the time to come and listen to some of our 15 16 concerns. My family has been on some of the same 17 ground for four generations. And our goal is to leave 18 a safe, productive and noncluttered environment for our 19 grandchildren. 20 I have concerns about stray voltage. I 21 have concerns that at some point, God forbid, we're 22 close to tornado alley that one of those things would 23 come barreling up through and we'd have the right conditions and the Fall of the year like they had in 24 25 the Southeast part of the country, we could have a big

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- 1 mess. We could burn up the country.
- 2 I have health concerns for family
- 3 members and for livestock producers that the stray
- 4 voltage corrupts the GPS technology on the newer farm
- 5 equipment that just about everybody has adapted. Many
- 6 of us are real conscience about stewardship on our
- 7 farms. We use fungicides we use -- different crops in
- 8 the Fall of the year and many of those are applied by
- 9 spray plane. And there is a safety issue for those
- 10 pilots besides a big inconvenience.
- 11 The utility poles are unsightly, unsafe
- 12 and by all -- well, they're not necessary. That many
- of the East Coast governors have said that they simply
- 14 do not need the power. If we can put a man on the moon
- 15 I don't know why we can't bury a cable down the median
- 16 of Interstate 70 if they need a transmission line that
- 17 bad. And I would ask any of the supports in the back
- of the room, would they like to have this tower in one
- 19 of their backyards? Thank you very much for your time.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Karen Anderson.
- 21 (Witness sworn.)
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 23 and spell your last name.
- MS. ANDERSON: Karen Anderson,
- 25 A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. I'm a resident of DeKalb County.

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- 1 Two years ago today I was packing to
- 2 move to DeKalb County. Had I known then what I know
- 3 now we probably would not have. We would not have
- 4 built the house that Ivan talked about. We would not
- 5 be paying taxes. We would be elsewhere. You've heard
- 6 so many speak today on eminent domain, unintended
- 7 consequences, they are right on target, they really
- 8 are.
- 9 According to an article in the St. Louis
- 10 Post Dispatch dated April 7, 2016 by David Barker.
- 11 "The State of Arkansas has agreed to allow this
- 12 transmission line to cross their state if Missouri
- 13 turns it down again." I request that you allow
- 14 Arkansas to do this bidding. Consider a large
- 15 transmission line, so will follow commercial wind
- 16 turbines. Being a resident of DeKalb County and having
- 17 studied the large turbines after the fact, I am sadly
- aware of the wrath that it brings to all things that
- 19 fly, wildlife, domestic animals and humans.
- These words literally flew out of me on
- 21 to a piece of notebook paper as I was riding down the
- 22 road when my husband and I were headed to town.
- 23 Needles pierced the sky. Sharp points jabbed at the
- 24 soft clouds. They're good we're told. Green as grass
- 25 they say. Slowly they spin their web of deceit.

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- 1 Friends, family, countryside are torn under. Birds are
- 2 pushed out. Animals assaulted. Green money or blood
- 3 money.
- 4 Please quit allowing big companies to
- 5 take advantage of mid America. To them we are just
- 6 fly-over people. They do not understand how valuable
- 7 our land is to us. As well as how much food we give
- 8 them. EMF is a complicated situation. Experts are
- 9 still delivering. In 2005 the British Medical Journal
- 10 stated babies who live near high voltage are twice as
- 11 likely to develop leukemia during childhood. That was
- 12 in 2005. That is a relatively new study.
- Many of the studies that you look for
- 14 out there are 14 years old. Could it be that much of
- 15 big business does not want us to have newer studies?
- 16 Do you remember the infamous statement before the
- 17 Affordable Healthcare Act was passed? You'll have to
- 18 pass it to see what's in it. We know now how that's
- 19 ending up. You are in a position of building it to see
- 20 how it will effect us. Please deny Grain Belt
- 21 accessibility. Thank you for your time.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Danny Frederick.
- 23 (Witness sworn.)
- 24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 25 and spell your last name.

Page 103 MR. FREDERICK: Danny Frederick, 1 2 F-r-e-d-e-r-i-c-k. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 4 MR. FREDERICK: Cooper County. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 5 6 MR. FREDERICK: Hello my name is Danny 7 Frederick and I'm a lifelong resident of Central 8 Missouri growing up in rural Cooper County. I just 9 wanted to come out today and speak in favor of this project because of all the positive impacts that this 10 11 project can have for Missouri. This 12 project will bring clean renewable wind energy to 13 Missouri and bring with it many jobs for Missouri 14 workers. And most importantly the project will bring in millions of dollars in the form of property taxes 15 16 for rural Missouri counties. All, while not costing 17 the residents of Missouri any taxpayer dollars. 18 nobody wants a transmission line on their land, the 19 benefits for all Missourians heavily outweigh the downside. 20 21 Thanks for allowing me to voice my 22 opinion. Thank you. 23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Ross Pritchard. 24 25 (Witness sworn.)

Page 104 1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: State your name and 2 spell your last name. 3 MR. PRITCHARD: Ross Pritchard, 4 P-r-i-t-c-h-a-r-d. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 5 MR. PRITCHARD: Wellsville, Kansas. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. MR. PRITCHARD: I've worked for power 8 9 engineers and we have offices in both Kansas City and St. Louis with about 120 Missourians that work in our 10 company. And I am in support of this project. I think 11 that it's going to benefit the overall public with --12 you know, 1,500 jobs during the life of the project. 13 14 And it's also going to bring tax dollars. We're looking at \$7.2 million in taxes. 15 16 So I'm looking at this and saying this 17 is a good project that needs to move along. And I ask 18 you to support it. Thank you. 19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. William 20 Knight. 21 (Witness sworn.) 22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 23 and spell your last name. 24 MR. KNIGHT: William Knight, 25 K-n-i-g-h-t.

Page 106 new economic development to my home. 2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Trace 3 Calabrese. 4 (Witness sworn.) 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 6 and spell your last name. 7 MR. CALABRESE: Trace Calabrese, C-a-l-a-b-r-e-s-e. 8 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 10 MR. CALABRESE: Johnson County. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 11 MR. CALABRESE: I work for Schafer, 12 Kline & Warren a full service surveying, engineering 13 and construction firm with three offices in Missouri, 14 Kansas City, Macon and Columbia with over 200 local 15 16 employees. 17 We have provided services to cities, 18 counties and private clients throughout the state of 19 Missouri since 1950. SKW has also successfully 20 provided survey design and maintained construction 21 services for a number of cross-country utilities 22 throughout the United States. Considering these 23 experiences we are confident that the Grain Belt Express Clean Line project can be completed safely, 24 25 effectively, efficiently considering our stated goals

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- 1 of putting the public interest first.
- 2 Support the project for its potential to
- 3 double supply of low cost clean, renewable energy
- 4 currently provided in Missouri. And provide lower
- 5 electricity rates for the local cities, counties,
- 6 businesses and residents it will serve. This project
- 7 is private capital investment in state and will support
- 8 1,500 jobs during the three years of construction.
- 9 Once online the potential savings to participating
- 10 municipalities is estimated to be \$10 million annually.
- 11 These are savings that can be passed along to benefit
- 12 the community.
- This project also contributes to the
- 14 state's modernized electric grid. This project will
- 15 provide Missouri's largest employers including General
- 16 Motors, Target, Kellogg's, Proctor & Gamble to name a
- 17 few, and potentially many local employers low cost
- 18 clean energy that they have asked for. This should
- 19 have a positive effect on keeping these valued jobs
- 20 within the state of Missouri. It also positions the
- 21 state as an attractive place for new businesses that
- 22 want access to this of type of energy.
- 23 Today's Clean Belt has identified more than 35
- 24 municipal utility providers across the state that will
- 25 purchase power via the project. And once concluded,

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- 1 the list of providers is expect to expand. This new
- 2 source of clean
- 3 energy will be provided in the same manner as other
- 4 for-profit companies with an increase focus on impacts
- 5 to the environment and landowners concerns about the
- 6 use of their land in proximity to power lines and
- 7 structures.
- 8 As I said, I have been involved in
- 9 multiple cross country utility projects of this type
- 10 and my assessment is that Clean energy -- Clean Line
- 11 Energy has approached this project with respect for all
- 12 involved in a manner that benefits cities, counties,
- 13 businesses and residents of Missouri. Thank you.
- 14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Lou Nelsen.
- 15 (Witness sworn.)
- 16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 17 and spell your last name.
- 18 MR. NELSEN: Lou Nelson, N-e-l-s-e-n
- 19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- MR. NELSEN: Lyons, Nebraska.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- MR. NELSEN: My name is Lou Nelsen and
- 23 I'm a policy associate with the East Center for Rural
- 24 Affairs. I work on transmission site emissions in the
- 25 Midwest and Great Plains.

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- 1 I wanted to come here to comment
- 2 specifically on two items that are part of this new
- 3 application for the Grain Belt project. And that is
- 4 the landowner protection protocol and the ag lands
- 5 impact medication protocol. I think both of these
- 6 highlight a good commitment to best practices and
- 7 acknowledging landowner concerns and address those
- 8 concerns.
- 9 I have seen these same protocols or
- 10 similar protocols help to address these concerns in
- 11 other states on other projects whether it be
- 12 transmissions or wind energy. And so I think those are
- 13 two positive inclusions. And additionally with the
- 14 landowner protections. I've heard some concerns about
- 15 what happens to the project at the end of its life
- 16 span. A decommissioning fund which is in that land
- 17 protection protocol helps thrust it. And so I think
- 18 it's important to acknowledge those commitments and
- 19 acknowledge those positive steps.
- Obviously, there are more concerns that
- 21 need to be address, you've heard several of them today.
- 22 And I think it's good to focus on those positive steps.
- 23 And also look at what needs to be done in the future.
- 24 Thank you.
- 25 CHAIRMAN HALL: Hold on. What's the

Page 110 name of your organization again? 2 MR. NELSEN: Center for Rural Affairs. 3 And we're based in Lyons as well. 4 CHAIRMAN HALL: I am sorry? MR. NELSEN: We're based in Lyons, 5 Nebraska as well. 6 7 CHAIRMAN HALL: Have you done any 8 written analysis of these protocols that we've 9 discussed? 10 MR. NELSEN: I haven't done any written analysis yet, I have been reading them over, but I've 11 looked at similar protocols in other states. Not so 12 much for transmission lines there, but they're normally 13 14 more of a response for folks on projects. CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. How is your 15 16 organization funded? 17 MR. NELSEN: Grant money. 18 CHAIRMAN HALL: By who? What entities? 19 MR. NELSEN: Private foundations, but also donations from citizens as well. 20 21 CHAIRMAN HALL: And do you routinely 22 testify on transmission siding cases? 23 MR. NELSEN: Yes. 24 CHAIRMAN HALL: In Nebraska and Missouri? All over the Midwest? 25

Page 111 MR. NELSEN: Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa, 1 2 Kansas, South Dakota. I've submitted for North Dakota 3 as well as Wisconsin. 4 CHAIRMAN HALL: Have you met a transmission line you didn't like? 5 6 MR. NELSEN: Yeah, I think I have 7 actually. I don't know if its necessarily that -- it's 8 hard to hate a project, but there are items that are 9 within a project that, you know, you can dislike or you 10 can see fault with them. 11 We point out, you know, perhaps this 12 isn't the right path. Maybe we should look at this path instead. We've looked at landowners and how that 13 14 can be improved. We don't just drop in and say, yea, transmission. Our real mission is to hopefully 15 16 identify recommendations in those practices. 17 CHAIRMAN HALL: And so in your view the 18 landowner protection protocol and -- what was the 19 second protocol you mentioned? 20 MR. NELSEN: The ag impact mitigation 21 protocol. 22 CHAIRMAN HALL: Do you believe that both 23 of those are fair and just?

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positive commitment. I think it's hard to make a

MR. NELSEN: I think they identify a

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25

Page 112 judgment right now. As I mentioned, I haven't gone 2 through the written analyses so. If I were to go 3 line-by-line that would be kind of difficult -- I 4 quess, I don't even know how much time I have left. CHAIRMAN HALL: You got all the time. 5 6 MR. NELSEN: Okay. It would be 7 difficult, you know, if we were to go line-by-line it 8 would be hard in this format. I would like to take more time to analyze each one because like I said maybe 10 there are still improvements that can be made, but I think it is a positive indication. 11 12 CHAIRMAN HALL: Thank you. 13 MR. NELSEN: Yeah. Any other questions? 14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: No, thank you. Phyllis 15 Parker. 16 (Witness sworn.) 17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 18 and spell your last name. 19 MS. PARKER: My name is Phyllis Parker, 20 P-a-r-k-e-r. 21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live at. 22 MS. PARKER: I live at -- my address is 23 Pole. 24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 25 MR. PARKER: In 1970 my husband and I

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- 1 bought our farm. And although it is paid for and -- we
- 2 had title to it, it still belongs to my God and
- 3 Creator. And I feel that we are in -- we are
- 4 caretakers of this land, of our Creators land. And I
- 5 think that -- I agree with everything that others that
- 6 had witnessed against it, I'm against it. I guess the
- 7 power line would go very close to my two very small
- 8 houses.
- 9 And I pray that you will deny it. And
- 10 after having said that, I will say that I think we
- 11 waste a lot of energy. I try to -- I think we need to
- 12 be more conservative of our energy, maybe we wouldn't
- 13 need these extra power lines maybe if we didn't waste
- 14 our energy. And I don't have TV and I don't have a lot
- of things, but I do have a clothes dryer and every
- 16 chance I get, and that means about everytime I wash, I
- 17 hang my clothes out. I hung my clothes out last week
- 18 and my fingers got cold and in no time. Those jeans
- 19 were as stiff as a board, but I do it for three
- 20 reasons. To save energy, to save money and to prove
- 21 that at 80 I still can accomplish it.
- 22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Susan Pavlokis. Susan
- 23 Pavlokis. James Smith.
- 24 (Witness sworn.)
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name

Page 114 and spell your last name. 2 MR. SMITH: James Smith, S-m-i-t-h. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? MR. SMITH: Columbia, Missouri. 4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 5 6 MR. SMITH: I'm a supporter of the Grain 7 Belt Express because this project will bring many 8 public benefits to Missouri and its infrastructure required for growth. I'm also a supporter of power 9 10 that is generated by a renewable source. 11 I work for Hubbell Power Systems in 12 Centralia, Missouri. Hubbell Power Systems is a large manufacturer of transmission distribution and 13 14 substation electrical products. Hubbell is thrilled to be selected as a partner with Clean Line Energy to help 15 build Grain Belt Express. Our company will supply 16 transmission hardware insulators for the project and we 17 18 are also in discussion to provide anchoring products 19 for various parts of the line. 20 We have about 700 employees that work in 21 Centralia office. And a project such as Grain Belt 22 Express would be a benefit not only to our company but 23 to the community and surrounding communities. project could potentially bring 50 to 65 new jobs to 24 25 Hubbell with approximately 8% of those residing in

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- 1 Centralia supporting our community and the families
- 2 within. These are go jobs. Manufacturing, customer
- 3 service, engineering, operations and logistics.
- 4 Essentially we would create good jobs
- 5 with good benefits that would support Missouri
- 6 families. These types of projects like the Grain Belt
- 7 Express also provide opportunities to reinvest in our
- 8 people and our business. In addition to the benefits
- 9 of this project that will bring to Hubbell and its
- 10 employees the Grain Belt Express Clean Line will also
- 11 be a long-term benefit to the City of Centralia,
- 12 Missouri, and its residents and its businesses.
- 13 Centralia recently committed to join
- 14 other Missouri communities in purchasing energy off the
- 15 power line. The Grain Belt Express Clean Line is
- 16 needed to deliver this renewable green energy that is
- 17 projected to save Centralia hundreds of thousands of
- 18 dollars.
- 19 Thank you for taking the time to listen
- 20 to me today. I encourage you to approve this important
- 21 project.
- 22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Ruth Finet.
- 23 (Witness sworn.)
- 24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 25 and spell your last name?

Page 116 1 MS. FINET: My name is Ruth Finet, 2 F-i-n-e-t. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 4 MS. FINET: I live in Lee Summit, Missouri. 5 6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 7 MS. FINET: Good afternoon. I rely on a 8 modern dependable infrastructure. I own two small 9 businesses in Missouri and Kansas. Frankly, I expect 10 it to be in place. Projects like the Grain Belt Express are needed to ensure our infrastructure is up 11 to date and providing the best economic conditions for 12 individuals and businesses in Missouri. 13 This project would provide access to low 14 cost energy that is currently inaccessible with the 15 16 existing grid system. It's development would also 17 create jobs in Missouri. It positions Missouri in 18 attracting new businesses. They would greatly benefit 19 from lowest cost clean energy. The two small 20 businesses that I own are significantly impacted by the 21 cost of utilities. My bottom line depends on how 22 affordable I can run my business to pay my employees. 23 I encourage you to approve the application by Grain Belt Express and keep Missouri 24 25 moving forward and competitive. Thank you for your

Page 117 time and your service to Missouri and most importantly 2 your consideration of this project. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Tom 4 Rinehart. (Witness sworn.) 5 6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 7 and spell your last name. 8 MR. RINEHART: Tom Rinehart, 9 R-i-n-e-h-a-r-t. 10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live, sir? 11 MR. RINEHART: Lake Latawana, Jackson 12 County, Missouri. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 13 14 MR. RINEHART: Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to read the following comments into the 15 16 record. I am a landowner in both Missouri and Kansas. 17 I am also a businessman and I have spent my total 18 career in energy business. I've seen a lot of change 19 during these years. And the truth of the matter is 20 that economic growth and progress has always been made 21 possible by infrastructure i.e, highways, pipelines, 22 bridges, dams and, yes, transmission lines. 23 The energy policy that supports the U.S. economy has changed over the years and will continue to 24 25 change regardless of politics. Clean energy sources

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- 1 including wind and solar have become our lowest cost of
- 2 energy and they will power more and more of our
- 3 country's growth from manufacturing to high tech
- 4 industries.
- 5 I have transmissions lines that run
- 6 across some of my farm properties in Western Kansas.
- 7 These lines haven't reduced the value of these lands or
- 8 make them any less productive. Therefore, I support
- 9 Clean Lines Grain Belt Express project because it
- 10 represents future economic progress and I support the
- 11 future. Thank you very much.
- 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. John
- 13 Thompson.
- 14 (Witness sworn.)
- 15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 16 and spell your last name.
- MR. THOMPSON: John D. Thompson,
- T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n.
- 19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- MR. THOMPSON: I live in south DeKalb
- 21 County here in Missouri.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- 23 MR. THOMPSON: I agree with all the
- 24 people that have spoken before me accept the last 12.
- 25 I have lived in south DeKalb County for 52 years and

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- 1 north Clinton County the rest of my life near Jay
- 2 Highway. Hello, to all the good people that are here
- 3 and whoever else is left.
- 4 I don't believe in eminent domain for
- 5 private gain. It's funny that people on the east and
- 6 west coast and certain so called educated people around
- 7 here think that the people in rural America and
- 8 Missouri don't have a dog in the fight or as David and
- 9 Goliath, we still have a few rocks in our pocket. I
- 10 still don't believe in eminent domain for private gain.
- 11 You know by TV and you have to sort that out on whoever
- 12 is talking that the wind does blow in New York,
- 13 Pennsylvania, Michigan, et cetra, because the wind has
- 14 made whiteouts when it snowed and 30, 40 and 50 car
- 15 pileups. So the wind does blow off Lake Erie. So they
- 16 should put the windmills there and you don't have to
- 17 have it in Missouri with eminent domain.
- 18 Our country life in the Midwest -- I
- 19 have 22 windmills out my front window that I see now
- 20 that have been put up in the last year. It is not a
- 21 pretty sight for me. I have been associated with a
- 22 small piece of property in DeKalb County, Missouri,
- 23 that was in eminent domain by Kansas City Power & Light
- 24 to run the power so we could have our windmills. So we
- 25 had to settle for peanuts on what they did to our

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- 1 crops. And this is -- this Grain Belt Express is a way
- 2 bigger problem than we had with that.
- We haven't had -- we wouldn't have had
- 4 our problems in DeKalb County expect for some crooked
- 5 commissioners in our township bored, zoning bored.
- 6 They got the windmills that they voted for. The jobs
- 7 that they created in DeKalb County were for fixing
- 8 windshields, tires for old people. That's where
- 9 windmill people tore up. 90 to 100 pickups that were
- 10 used were licensed in Utah. Hope this doesn't turn out
- 11 like our zoning meeting in Colfax Township where we had
- 12 95 against windmills and five for it.
- 13 All these people for the Line are from
- 14 away from here and maybe 50 miles or farther so they
- 15 don't have to worry about seeing this in their
- 16 backyard. Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. The next
- 18 name is a little hard to read here. Josh Nade Sheridon
- 19 or something like that. Looks like S-h-e-r -- last
- 20 name. John or Josh. Doesn't ring a bell with anybody?
- 21 Okay.
- 22 Let's go on to the next one. Roger Day.
- 23 Roger Day. All right. Jennifer Guthrie. Jennifer
- 24 Guthrie.
- 25 Karen Blake.

Page 121 1 (Witness sworn.) 2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 3 and spell your last name. 4 MS. BLAKE: Karen Blake, B-1-a-k-e. 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 6 7 MS. BLAKE: Mirable, Caldwell County. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 8 9 MS. BLAKE: Being a landowner that 10 already has three pipelines on it, I have also experienced some of the stray electricity being zapped 11 12 by my electric fence. It worries me about this line going across that -- I have an electric fence that goes 13 14 completely around the perimeter of the property plus it's grass -- graze. 15 16 Anyway, it's divided in to parts. Just 17 the fact that when the pipeline was going through they 18 promised you no worries. They said anything, sure, 19 yeah, sure. As long as you would sign. Once you 20 signed, even though it was in the contract when it came 21 to looking at the contract to be fulfilled, no. 22 just makes me feel that here's another company that 23 wants to come in and say, for the good of everyone, but I don't believe it. And I don't think any of you would 24 25 want something like this in your backyard. And I'm

Page 122 totally opposed to this Grain Line being built. Thank 2 you. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Gary Stuchlik. 4 (Witness sworn.) 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name 6 and spell your last name. 7 MR. STUCHLIK: My name is Gary Stuchlik, S-t-u-c-h-l-i-k. 8 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 10 MR. STUCHLIK: I live just south of 11 Mirable in Caldwell County. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 12 MR. STUCHLIK: Well, here we are again. 13 I have seen some of your faces before. I'd like to 14 thank you all for being here today and giving us the 15 16 opportunity to speak since we're having to go through 17 this again. 18 First of all, the eminent domain issue, 19 I think it's totally absurd considering that this is a 20 foreign company, or at least partially owned by a 21 Second of all, we've got two foreign company. 22 sides here today, the majority of it is landowners. I 23 don't think one landowner has come up here today and has been for this. On the other hand, those that are 24 25 for it are again, they all are seeking to profit from

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- 1 it. Jobs, they say there's going to be a few jobs. We
- 2 know how that goes, yeah, they come in they build it
- 3 and most of them out-of-state construction workers then
- 4 they're gone. They hire a few people but we all know
- 5 that it's not that much.
- 6 Second of all, the issue of taxes.
- 7 There is quite a debate about that. I don't have all
- 8 those numbers. You've all heard it. You guys have
- 9 heard it time and time again. I'm not going to go
- 10 there. What it basically comes down to is this, okay?
- 11 First of all, let me give you my personal issue with
- 12 it. This line, if it comes like they tell me, is going
- 13 to come right between my house and my barn. And it's
- 14 going to go over a power line that I have going out to
- my tank to run my water for my horses.
- 16 A lot of people said today that it will
- 17 reduce their property value if this line goes through.
- 18 Let me tell you something, with the little acreage I
- 19 got and the house that I've built there, I've lived
- 20 there almost 40 years. If this goes through my house
- 21 -- my property value will not go down, I will basically
- 22 be unsaleable. I know I certainly wouldn't buy it. If
- 23 that goes through.
- The bottom line is you guys are here to
- 25 determine what is best for Missouri. That's your job

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- 1 is to determine whether this is better for Missouri or
- 2 not. The first time we went through it you guys said
- 3 no, it's not good for Missouri. I think you made the
- 4 right decision. And I'm here today to ask you to
- 5 please make the same decision again.
- 6 Do the right thing. Thank you very much.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Mark Richardson.
- 8 (Witness sworn.)
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Can you state your name
- 10 and spell your last name.
- 11 MR. RICHARDSON: Mark Richardson,
- 12 R-i-c-h-a-r-d-s-o-n.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- 14 MR. RICHARDSON: Hutchinson -- or Reno
- 15 County, Kansas.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- MR. RICHARDSON: Good afternoon. Thank
- 18 you for allowing me to speak today. Growing up on a
- 19 farm I learned to drive tractors and combines at an
- 20 early age included how to dodge utility poles scattered
- 21 throughout along the side of the fields.
- Our farm included one field that had
- 23 three-quarters of a mile of poles spaced approximately
- 24 300 feet apart through the middle of the field. The
- 25 same field was in the shape of a triangle as a result

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- of a railroad built on 45 degree angle southeast,
- 2 northwest, 140 years ago and a subsequent parallel
- 3 highway. Then more recently the land was further
- 4 encumbered by a sewage pipe line for which I received a
- 5 significant easement payment.
- 6 Naturally, I would prefer the 300 acres
- 7 be in the shape of a rectangle with no poles or
- 8 pipeline. On the other hand the benefit -- I benefit
- 9 from the electricity that flows through the
- 10 transmission line. The railroad that hauls my grain to
- 11 market. The highway that provides access to my field.
- 12 And the money I receive for the pipeline and more
- importantly public interest is served in many ways.
- 14 The electricity from wind farms will flow on the
- 15 proposed transmission line and will originate in
- 16 southwest Kansas approximately 120 miles west of my
- 17 farm.
- Therefore, I do not stand to benefit
- 19 from construction of the Grain Belt Express. However,
- 20 I do know that farmers in southwest Kansas who are
- 21 having a tough time making it financially because of
- 22 frequent droughts that will benefit if this line is
- 23 built. So sometimes landowners have to think about the
- 24 public interest whether it's your neighbor down the
- 25 road who need the easement payments from project like

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- 1 Grain Belt Express or those that will benefit from
- 2 lower cost electricity. Or it might be another farmer
- 3 that needs a construction job on a project to make his
- 4 land payments. Perhaps if local schools
- 5 benefit from additional tax revenue from the line
- 6 built. Last year Kansas farm income dropped from an
- 7 average of \$120,000 to \$106,000. I imagine the numbers
- 8 are similar in Missouri with corn around \$3 a bush and
- 9 lower cattle prices.
- 10 Clean Line's easement payments totaling
- 11 \$32 million in Missouri will undoubtedly will provide
- 12 financial relief for many farmers and ranchers in
- 13 Missouri. Assume the project will be built.
- 14 Today I come here to share my opinion.
- 15 I believe the opinion of many other farmers. The
- 16 inconvenience of farming around structures is more than
- 17 offset by the broad public benefit it will provide
- 18 Missouri. As a farmer, I have read the Grain Belt's
- 19 agricultural impact mitigation protocol which addresses
- 20 many of the concerns raised by landowners. Therefore
- 21 -- furthermore, I extend Grain Belt as opposed to these
- 22 obligations on themselves which are above and beyond
- that are typically seen by utilities which demonstrates
- 24 Grain Belt's commitment to the respectful treatment of
- 25 landowners. Therefore, I respectfully ask this

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- 1 Commission to grant the authority to Clean Line energy
- 2 partners for the development of the Grain Belt Express.
- 3 Thank you.
- 4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Carol
- 5 Kisser.
- 6 (Witness sworn.)
- 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 8 and spell your last name.
- 9 MS. KISSER: Carol Kisser, K-i-s-s-e-r.
- 10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- 11 MS. KISSER: North of Amity, Missouri.
- 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- MS. KISSER: Gentlemen, lady, thank you
- 14 for letting me come here. In 1976 we bought a farm in
- 15 DeKalb County we thought it would be our forever home.
- 16 And for my late husband, it is as I thought it would be
- for me. But I'm surrounded by big wind towers and
- 18 because of their threat to my health I am being forced
- 19 to move away from my home. This could happen to many
- 20 others who are unfortunate to live near the proposed
- 21 Clean Line. I want to move near my daughters who
- 22 happen to live in the area of the proposed line and
- 23 trying to find a place I can call my own is very
- 24 difficult. why do these big companies,
- 25 conglomerates or even foreign countries think it's okay

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- 1 to come to our area and threaten eminent domain when
- 2 they don't have any right to our land. Do they think
- 3 we are people who can be walked over to think they have
- 4 to get into the money hungry land grabbers, wrong. Why
- 5 should we have to change our way of living for
- 6 monstrous towers who could threaten our lives.
- 7 It's too late to stop the building of the wind
- 8 towers but it is not too late to do something about the
- 9 power lines. By the way I can see 31 towers in one
- 10 spot in my driveway near my house. All I have to do is
- 11 look around.
- I come from a family who had lived into
- 13 their late 90s as I would like to do. I'm 83 and I
- 14 work outside in my garden and tend my flowers, mow my
- 15 lawn. I walk with my dog several times a day and even
- 16 they are smart enough to look at the wind towers and
- 17 refuse to walk in that direction. What would it be
- 18 like if we have to change our life style because of the
- 19 huge electrical towers towering over us. Do the people
- 20 who build them live near them. Do we have to ask. As
- 21 for the jobs they would bring in, how long do they
- 22 last? I've seen the benefits of these around me. A
- 23 new ATV for the kids to ride. A new dump truck with a
- 24 fancy name job on the side.
- But once the blades are turning and the

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- 1 electricity is running, neither of which is any benefit
- 2 to us, it goes elsewhere. Who takes care of things if
- 3 something goes wrong? It would their specialists. Not
- 4 the retired people who chose to live in the area nor
- 5 their sons and daughters who have moved away to pursue
- 6 their education, jobs and homes in the city. To
- 7 paraphrase an old song, I got along without you before
- 8 I met you. I can get along without you now. I guess
- 9 that dates me. Clean Line go home to someone who wants
- 10 you. We don't.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Ted Hartsig.
- 12 (Witness sworn.)
- 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 14 and spell your last name.
- MR. HARTSIG: Ted Hartsig,
- 16 H-a-r-t-s-i-q.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- 18 MR. HARTSIG: Overland Park, Kansas.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: I work for Olsson
- 21 Associates an engineering firm with seven offices
- 22 throughout Missouri with over 250 employees in the
- 23 state.
- Now, I am here to share our support to
- 25 the Clean Line project. We do a lot of work in

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- 1 Northern Missouri specifically even within these
- 2 counties where most of the Clean Line -- or the Grain
- 3 Belt line is proposed.
- In our environmental analysis we
- 5 routinely find that there's much to do in -- the social
- 6 economic environment is every bit a part of what we
- 7 analyze. And more often than not the social economic
- 8 environment in this part of state is in a great need
- 9 for help economically. We hear it constantly right in
- 10 our reports that economic need is there, whether it be
- 11 water, transportation or electricity. The Grain
- 12 Belt Line provides an opportunity to bring lower cost
- 13 energy to the cities in these counties that can help
- 14 sustain new businesses, existing businesses and help
- 15 keep jobs in the area.
- 16 Furthermore the Clean Line has basically
- 17 produced protocols that after 35 years of doing
- 18 environmental impact analysis I have not seen other
- 19 types of environmental work. You have to provide
- 20 safeguards in working with the communities in land
- 21 protection and environmental protection and primed to
- 22 meet the needs of all the landowners. The
- 23 environmental analysis process is not a statement into
- 24 itself, we listen to people. We listen to their needs
- 25 as much is being done here today. And in so doing

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- 1 there are tweaks, there are changes, there are
- 2 opportunities made. So Clean Line and the Grain Belt
- 3 Express present more opportunity for this area to
- 4 continue in growth and to keep people here to sustain
- 5 jobs not just directly from the power line itself but
- 6 ancillary and the other businesses that it will
- 7 support. Therefore we very definitely support this
- 8 Grain Belt Express Line. Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. John Burr.
- 10 (Witness sworn.)
- 11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 12 and spell the last name.
- MR. BURR: John Burr, B-u-r-r.
- 14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- MR. BURR: Austin, Missouri.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- MR. BURR: I just want to say one thing.
- 18 Eminent domain sets a bad precedent. If you do it for
- one private company you're never going to be able to
- 20 say no to another private company if they want to build
- 21 anything. Right now you can tell every private
- 22 company, no.
- The other thing is, these companies they
- 24 talk about being good neighbors. We've witnessed the
- 25 good neighbor in DeKalb County. I'm only five miles to

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- 1 DeKalb County, and like everybody else, I can see 28 of
- 2 them sitting on my front porch. That's five miles
- 3 away.
- 4 You know, the road -- North Platt Road
- 5 runs right on the county line, runs east and west of
- 6 the southern border of DeKalb County. Clinton County
- 7 has maintained that road and DeKalb County spends no
- 8 money in maintaining it. And they have admitted that.
- 9 When Clinton County officials asked for a road use
- 10 agreement for them to use that road for money up front
- 11 for repairs to that road for the damage that they do.
- 12 They told our commissioner where to stick it. They
- 13 said, we don't have to.
- 14 So that road has been torn up and
- 15 Clinton County will have to pay to restructure that
- 16 road. Another road up in DeKalb County, a state paved
- 17 road has been turned into a gravel road. All the black
- 18 top, all the tar is gone. They've had to take road
- 19 graders in and tear off the ridges because of the ruts
- 20 a foot deep in that road from all the trucks. They had
- 21 to go and turn it into a gravel road and it's a state
- 22 paved road.
- 23 You know, they're not good neighbors.
- 24 We had another one -- the sights up there they needed
- 25 to make a turn line to get the big equipment in to one

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- 1 of the sights so instead of coming in from the opposite
- 2 direction and making the turn lane on the leaseholder's
- 3 property they made the turn lane in a non leaseholder's
- 4 property tearing out about 100 foot of tree line. And
- 5 said, oh, our bad.
- 6 At the same point in order to make that
- 7 swing they drove through a non leaseholder's yard --
- 8 driving over some his "no turbine signs" while he did
- 9 and putting ruts in his yard about that deep. My bad.
- 10 They offered the guy -- they took out 100 foot of hedge
- 11 trees and I think they offered him \$500 to replace
- 12 hundred-year-old trees. That's not go neighbors.
- 13 You've heard about Pony Express conservation area. 21
- 14 wind turbines circle that -- are going circle that
- 15 lake. Conservation Department asked for a two to three
- 16 mile set back of the boundaries of the conservation
- 17 area. They said, there's no law that makes us. They
- 18 measured a mile from the center of the lake, not the
- 19 boundary of the conservation area, but from the center
- 20 of the lake. Study after study Missouri is one of the
- 21 largest homes for domestic area of eagles in the lower
- 22 48. I drive a mail route. The other day I saw four
- 23 eagles while I was on my mail route. Didn't see that
- 24 when I was a kid. It's amazing to see these great
- 25 birds. And they can buy a permit to chop them up. We

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- 1 got geese, bats, everything here. Somebody needs to
- 2 protect them. Like I said, they're not good neighbors.
- 3 And the eminent domain is a very bad idea. Thank you.
- 4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: I see from the list
- 5 that we have six names left. We've only got 15 minutes
- 6 before we need to stop for the day. So I would
- 7 encourage those who are coming up now to please be
- 8 concise, and say what you need to say so that everyone
- 9 gets a chance. Next is Kyle Carrol. Kyle Carrol.
- 10 Janet Storum. Janet Storum.
- 11 MS. STORUM: I'm not going to speak.
- 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. Scott Battles.
- 13 (Witness sworn.)
- 14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 15 and spell your last name.
- MR. BATTLES: Scott Battles,
- 17 B-a-t-t-l-e-s.
- 18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- MR. BATTLES: Liberty, Missouri.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- 21 MR. BATTLES: I teach wind energy and I
- 22 work with some of these wind farms. Specifically, over
- 23 here in Kansas City the past few years back, about 2.5
- 24 years. So I just wanted to hit some key points.
- I've heard issues as far as the birds.

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- 1 Wind turbines kill .02 percent of birds killed in the
- 2 United States. The bigger things that kills birds in
- 3 the United States is buildings, cars. You know, it's a
- 4 very small number. The wind turbines up in that area,
- 5 I have worked them for 2 1/2 years and I've seen one
- 6 bald eagle flying around the turbines. I've seen one
- 7 bird possibly killed by the turbine. And I stress the
- 8 word possible. It is not an endangered species in any
- 9 shape or form. No bats. I have not seen one single
- 10 bat.
- 11 So one of the other issues that I wanted
- 12 to hit was the basic situation if they go away.
- 13 There's a decommissioned fund, there is a
- 14 decommissioned fund to basically take these, you know,
- 15 lines down if it comes down to that.
- 16 One key thing I wanted to really hit
- 17 upon was pollution. You know a lot of people here got
- 18 shirts on that the says, no gain. The gain I see is
- 19 called breathable air. If you go down to Kansas City
- 20 from right here today you will find quickly the air is
- 21 not as good. The air up here is much better. If you
- 22 go up to New York the air is terrible. You go up to
- 23 upstate New York, yeah, it's decent. They have places
- 24 where they can put wind turbines but it's not enough.
- 25 If you go out to Gillette, Wyoming,

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- 1 you've got a coal mine that is 15 miles in length, 200
- 2 feet deep. It is going to be a perpetual scar on the
- 3 land. We have to come up with cleaner ways to produce
- 4 our energy. And it's a no-brainer that today our whole
- 5 environment is being trashed because of what we're
- 6 doing from the chemicals we put into the water to the
- 7 chemicals we put into the air. Power plants are
- 8 unnecessary issue -- a unnecessary part of our
- 9 infrastructure. Seriously? So I've heard the
- 10 assertion that turbines are inefficient. My contention
- 11 is, no, they're not inefficient. I've worked on these
- 12 machines and I can tell you that. You show me the
- 13 facts, the figures, the numbers. Turbines that I work
- 14 on, they were 98.87% efficient. We ran 99.87% most of
- 15 the time.
- 16 MS. COLEMAN: Mr. Battles, would you
- 17 speak to us, please?
- 18 MR. BATTLES: So in any case as far as
- 19 the turbines are concerned being inefficient, no,
- 20 they're not. You wouldn't see the companies that you
- 21 have today building wind turbines at the rate they are.
- 22 As far as the production tax credit
- 23 goes, the production tax credit died about a year, year
- 24 and a half ago when the industry flourished. It's not
- 25 going to go away. The country needs clean energy.

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- 1 They need clean air. We need to get away from trashing
- 2 our environment. And this is a critical part of the
- 3 infrastructure that we need. We need more grid
- 4 infrastructure in this country, it needs to be updated.
- 5 Much of our grid infrastructure dates back to the
- 6 1940s.
- 7 I have seen assertions up here today that
- 8 trying -- to stray voltage. It's EMI, basically
- 9 electro magnetic interference. It comes from AC power
- 10 lines and not DC power lines. DC power lines, if you
- 11 could measure it, it would be very negligible, I'll put
- 12 it that way.
- And again, up here there were a lot of
- 14 assertions as far as the wind turbines causing health
- 15 issues. I have worked around these things for 2 1/2
- 16 years and I didn't have a single health issue expect
- 17 for climbing and essentially cutting it -- doing work
- 18 on my knees. But it has nothing to do with the wind
- 19 turbines. Are they unsightly? Some people would say
- 20 that they are. Are they necessary? Absolutely. They
- 21 are a necessary evil. It's better to get away from
- 22 have strip pits basically, you know, mining away whole
- 23 mountains for coal in this country.
- 24 You know, the pollution -- I've seen a study
- 25 here about a year ago and some brilliant scientists

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- 1 came to a collusion that pollution is circulated
- 2 worldwide. I'm sitting here reading this and going,
- 3 seriously, it took a scientific study to figure this
- 4 out. The reality of one-on-one is pollution, yes, it's
- 5 circulated worldwide. It shouldn't take a study to
- 6 figure this out.
- 7 You know, my contention is that gain is you get
- 8 clean air, you get a cleaner environment. Thank you
- 9 very much.
- 10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Jenny
- 11 Maskill.
- 12 (Witness sworn.)
- 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name
- 14 and spell your last name.
- MS. MASKILL: Jenny Maskill,
- 16 M-a-s-k-i-l-l.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- MS. MASKILL: Lee Summit, Missouri.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- MS. MASKILL: I have a farm on the
- 21 project it's a family farm in Caroll County. It's been
- 22 in my family since the 1800s.
- 23 I'm a Missouri real estate broker so I
- 24 understand the domain law -- the laws, but I -- and at
- 25 the same time, I am a right-of-way agent.

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- I travel around the United States and I
- 2 work for landowners such as this when the Public
- 3 Service Commission decides that that's where the
- 4 project needs to go. And I have seen guite a bit. I
- 5 have been in several states and worked on several
- 6 projects. I have done pipeline. I've done electrical.
- 7 I've worked with wind farms. We have put pipes in the
- 8 ground through the wind farms. I've worked with all
- 9 the landowners through all the issues. Many, many
- 10 issues that I heard here today and many, many more.
- 11 There are a lot of issues. When there's a project like
- 12 this not everybody is going to like it.
- 13 There are places that I've been into and
- 14 they love it. And there are places that they hate it.
- 15 But regardless the Grain Belt will work with the
- 16 landowners one-on-one to help them resolve all their
- 17 issues. With that I extremely believe in green energy.
- 18 I believe that America should be as self sufficient as
- 19 possible. I really -- I believe -- I have seen
- 20 firsthand seen construction where thousands of people
- 21 come in and bring many, many dollars to the counties,
- 22 the state. I have seen the tax money that comes in.
- 23 The jobs. It's really -- it really will benefit
- 24 Missouri. Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Eric

		Page 140
1	Williams. Eric Williams. Kyle Neuenschwonder. Kyle	
2	Neuenschwonder.	
3	MR. KENNEY: I just want to very briefly	
4	say thank you for coming out today. Thank you for	
5	providing testimony. It was extremely moving,	
6	insightful and it's an important part of process so	
7	thank you.	
8	(Hearing adjourned at 3:58 p.m.)	
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24	(All exhibits retained)	by Judge	Bushmann.)	
25				

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1	CERTIFICATE
2	STATE OF MISSOURI)
3) SS:
4	COUNTY OF CLINTON)
5	
6	I, Albert Narvaez, a certified court reporter
7	within and for the State of Missouri, certify that the
8	foregoing proceeding was taken by me in stenotype and
9	thereafter transcribed by computer and is a true and
10	correct transcript of the foregoing proceeding; that
11	the foregoing proceeding was taken on December 13,
12	2016, at Cameron Community Center, Cameron, Missouri;
13	that I am not an attorney for nor relative of either
14	party, or otherwise interested in this action.
15	Witness my hand and seal of office on the 30th
16	day of December 2016.
17	MO Anac
18	account of
19	
	Albert Narvaez, CCR
20	For the State of Missouri
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