		Page 1
1	STATE OF MISSOURI	
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION	
3		
	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS	
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5		
	Local Public Hearing	
6		
	December 14, 2016, 12:00 p.m.	
7		
	Polo, Missouri Community Center at Stagecoach Park	
8	•	
	Volume 8	
9		
10	In the Matter of the Application of Grain File No.	
	Belt Express Clean Line LLC for a	
11	Certificate of Convenience and Necessity EA-2016-0358	
	Authorizing it to Construct, Own, Operate,	
12	Control, Manage and Maintain a High Voltage,	
	Direct Current Transmission Line and an	
13	Associated Converter Station Providing an	
	Interconnection on the Maywood-Montgomery	
14	345kv Transmission Line	
15		
16		
17	MICHAEL BUSHMANN, Presiding	
	SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE	
18		
	DANIEL Y. HALL, Chairman	
19	WILLIAM P. KENNEY,	
	MAIDA J. COLEMAN,	
20	COMMISSIONERS	
21		
22		
23		
24	REPORTED BY:	
	BETH A. KALTENBERGER	
25	CSR, CCR, RPR, CRR	

		Page 2
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Page 3 1 PROCEEDINGS 2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Let's go on the record. 3 Good afternoon. It's December 14th, 2016, and we're 4 in Polo, Missouri. A Missouri Public Service Commission has set this time for a local public 5 6 hearing in the case captioned as In the Matter of the 7 Application of Grain Belt Express Clean Line, LLC for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity Authorizing 8 it to Construct, Own, Operate, Control, Manage and 10 Maintain a High Voltage Direct Current Transmission Line and an Associated Converter Station Providing an 11 Interconnection on the Maywood-Montgomery 345kv 12 Transmission Line. The file number is EA-2016-0358. 13 14 My name is Michael Bushmann. I'm the presiding regulatory law judge. With me today are 15 16 Chairman Daniel Hall and Commissioners Bill Kenney and Maida Coleman. 17 18 Mr. Chairman, did you want to make any 19 opening remarks? 20 MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: Judge, they're 21 having a hard time hearing in the back. Is it 22 possible to turn the volume up? 23 CHAIRMAN HALL: Good afternoon. My name is Daniel Hall. It is good to be here. We are here to 24 25 listen to you. This case presents a number of very,

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- 1 very complex, difficult issues. It's important for us
- 2 to be able to put a human face on at least some of
- 3 those issues, and that's the point of today's hearing.
- 4 It's a very important part of the process. Everything
- 5 that you say will be transcribed. It will be part of
- 6 the official court -- excuse me -- case file. The
- 7 other two commissioners who are not here with us today
- 8 will have access to that file, to that transcript, so
- 9 rest assured that your testimony will be heard and
- 10 considered by all five of us.
- 11 Thank you. I look forward to hearing your
- 12 comments.
- 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Let's have the attorneys
- 14 make their entry of appearance. For Grain Belt
- 15 Express Clean Line, LLC.
- MR. HARDEN: Joshua Harden.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Commission staff.
- MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Office of Public Counsel?
- MR. OPITZ: Thank you, Judge. Tim Opitz,
- 21 Office of the Public Counsel.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Show Me Concerned
- 23 Landowners.
- MR. LINTON: David Linton.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: If counsel for any other

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interveners are present, please make your entry of 2 appearance right now. 3 MR. HEALY: Douglas Healy, H-E-A-L-Y, for 4 the Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission. 5 6 Thank you, judge. 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. 8 I would ask the people in the audience to 9 please check their cell phones and make sure they're 10 silenced so there's no interruptions during the 11 hearing. Before taking any testimony, I'd like to 12 provide you with some information about why the 13 Commission is holding this public hearing. 14 Commission has already scheduled an evidentiary 15 16 hearing for March of next year to take evidence 17 regarding Grain Belt Express's application, but it has 18 also scheduled hearings in each of the counties 19 affected by the proposed transmission line in order to give members of the public a chance to state their 20 21 support or their opposition to the project. And 22 that's the purpose of today's hearing. 23 For those of you who would like to provide testimony today, I'm going to call the names listed on 24

the sign-up sheet. When I call your name, please come

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- 1 forward to the microphone in the front. I'll put you
- 2 under oath, ask you to state your name and where you
- 3 live, and then you can offer your comments to the
- 4 Commission.
- 5 The Commission has established some ground
- 6 rules for the hearing to try and give everybody a
- 7 chance to testify within a reasonable amount of time.
- 8 First of all, you can only testify at one hearing. So
- 9 if you do testify at a hearing, and your name appears
- 10 on a sign-up sheet at a later hearing, you won't be
- 11 called to testify again. Your testimony is limited to
- 12 five minutes per person. I will have a timer next to
- 13 me that will help keep track of the time, and will
- 14 give you a warning when the time is up.
- 15 If you haven't finished your comments when
- 16 the time expires, you can submit all your comments in
- 17 writing or by calling the Commission. The Commission
- 18 staff is available at the table near the door to give
- 19 you information on how to do that. You can't donate
- 20 your time to another witness who runs out of time.
- The Commissioners won't be able to answer
- 22 any of your questions today because they have to
- 23 remain impartial until the evidence is presented at
- 24 the evidentiary hearing, so if you have questions,
- 25 please address those to the Commission staff or

Page 7 representatives of the company who are here today. 2 And in order for the Commission staff to have sufficient time to set up for another hearing 3 4 this evening, this hearing has to end no later than 4:00. 5 6 My final request is to please be polite and 7 courteous to all who are testifying here today, and 8 treat them as you would like to be treated. 9 The first witness to testify today will be 10 Jennifer Gatrel. 11 (The witness was sworn.) 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Will you please state your name, and spell your last name. 13 THE WITNESS: Jennifer Gatrel, G-A-T-R-E-L. 14 15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 16 THE WITNESS: Polo or Cowgill, Missouri. 17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 18 THE WITNESS: Thank you. Thank you for 19 listening, not just to our words that you have heard at these hearings, but also to our actions. There is 20 21 the expression that actions speak louder than words. 22 And, in this case, it is very true. 23 Our actions have told Grain Belt "no" every way that we can. Our actions have implored you to 24 25 preserve property rights and our control over the land

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- 1 that we own and that we love. The cost that we have
- 2 already bore is sky high. We've raised over \$270,000.
- 3 Money from people like me, like our vacation fund that
- 4 went to fund some of these efforts.
- 5 We've attended, at the end of this week, 16
- 6 hearings with what I hope is record attendance. We've
- 7 had 12 legislative trips to Jeff City, trying to get
- 8 legislative relief for the Clean Line problem. We've
- 9 done 55 meetings over the state, trying to educate and
- 10 talk with people and rally defense for property
- 11 rights. There has been countless hours of work and
- worry, and people literally have developed serious
- 13 health problems over the stress involved with Grain
- 14 Belt.
- 15 Ultimately, this is about whether or not a
- 16 private company gets the right of eminent domain. In
- 17 rural America, a person is known by their reputation
- 18 or their name. Clean Line's name is, as they say,
- 19 mud. They have treated us terribly, and there is no
- 20 reason to believe they would treat us any better if
- 21 they get the hammer of eminent domain.
- They have lied to landowners, including
- 23 last night, saying it's a done deal. They've been
- 24 disrespectful. They have refused to leave rest homes,
- 25 nursing homes, when asked by elderly landowners, and

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- 1 the whole infamous marketing to Mayberry scheme.
- 2 They've bribed supporters with pizza
- 3 parties and swag, and most recently with food and
- 4 drinks at a brewery of which I have the flier to give
- 5 to you.
- 6 They have refused to listen to our ideas.
- 7 They filed without notice to you all in the hopes that
- 8 we would have less time to prepare. National Grid is
- 9 in trouble for not paying their taxes in
- 10 Massachusetts, the parent company of Clean Line.
- 11 Grain Belt has paid for land agents to work
- 12 8,480 hours, and has netted only 39 easements, total,
- 13 all of those in 2014. 100 people have prohibited
- 14 Grain Belt from contacting them. They wrote the
- 15 Missouri Landowner Protocol, along with Governor
- 16 Nixon, and involved zero landowners in the creation of
- 17 that. It is likely that after getting eminent domain,
- 18 they would treat us even worse. Without a doubt, if
- 19 Grain Belt were to get a certificate, we would be
- 20 looking at the largest taking of private land through
- 21 eminent domain in our state's history.
- 22 Grain Belt wants to use rural America for
- 23 their own financial gain. They have no concern for
- 24 our rights or our welfare. Our county roads and
- 25 bridges cannot support the massive equipment this

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- 1 company would need for construction. Others will
- 2 testify to the impact of major problems created by the
- 3 massive equipment. Five of the eight counties remain
- 4 in opposition with hopefully more on the way. Our
- 5 county simply cannot bear the strain.
- 6 You have gotten to know many of us over the
- 7 last three years. We are, for the most part, good,
- 8 yet simple people. We feed America, we serve in her
- 9 America, and we produce her goods and services. This
- 10 fight has been tremendously hard on us. It has really
- 11 strained our resources. I hope we have proven to you
- 12 that this project would harm us.
- 13 You are in the position to stop the
- 14 precedent of a private company using eminent domain to
- 15 erect massive private power lines that would
- 16 irreparably harm us. We need your help. You have
- 17 heard from others on the other side that ask you to
- 18 give Grain Belt the certificate so that they can enjoy
- 19 some short-term benefits. We have been on our land
- 20 for a long time and, with your help, we will remain on
- 21 our land.
- The short-term benefits versus the
- 23 long-term harm are not even comparable and, really,
- 24 it's the definition of greed.
- 25 Please help us. Please send a very clear

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message to Grain Belt that property rights in Missouri 2 will be protected. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. 4 CHAIRMAN HALL: You cited a couple of numbers I didn't quite catch. One of them was how 5 6 many easements have been signed. 7 THE WITNESS: 39, according to Grain Belt. 8 And in their -- it's a recent discovery question that 9 you will have access to by Diana, I believe her name 10 I can get that to you. And all of those were in 2014. 11 CHAIRMAN HALL: Then you cited a no contact 12 list or something. 13 14 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. CHAIRMAN HALL: What exactly is that? 15 16 THE WITNESS: So what people can do, 17 because we've had the problems that you all know 18 about, like them going into the nursing home and being 19 asked to leave, so we provided to our members a form 20 that they could fill out that says that Grain Belt can 21 only contact them via United States Mail. And over 22 100 people have done that. And I guess I should have 23 said that there's 600 potential easements, and they have 39 of them, and only -- they only got them signed 24

in 2014, according to Grain Belt's latest discovery.

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1	CHAIRMAN HALL: And you mentioned the	
2	marketing to Mayberry?	
3	THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.	
4	CHAIRMAN HALL: Could you explain that to	
5	me?	
6	THE WITNESS: I would love to. I was	
7	hoping you would ask because I couldn't fit it in.	
8	Grain Belt, in 2014 or '15, was the host of	
9	an EUCI conference, and in one of the there was a	
10	whole bunch of really disparaging titles and, you	
11	know, teaching, and they were the host, and one of	
12	them was called "Marketing to Mayberry," you know, how	
13	to better interact with rural America. And I think	
14	that that's been really a problem; that they feel that	
15	we're Mayberry citizens, and they can come and run	
16	over us. And they did not expect Mayberry to fight	
17	back like this.	
18	CHAIRMAN HALL: All right. Thank you very	
19	much.	
20	THE WITNESS: Thank you.	
21	JUDGE BUSHMANN: You have some exhibits you	
22	wanted to include?	
23	THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.	
24	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Two of them?	
25	THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.	

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1	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Would you give those to
2	the court reporter, please.
3	And that will be Exhibits 50 and 51.
4	(Exhibits 50 through 52 were marked for
5	identification.)
6	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Next witness is Maddie
7	Gatrel.
8	MR. HARDEN: Can I have one question?
9	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Yes.
10	MR. HARDEN: Josh Harden, Grain Belt.
11	THE WITNESS: I'm having trouble hearing
12	you, and I know that they are.
13	MR. HARDEN: I just want to verify the
14	number that you read, the 39 easements that are
15	currently. So is there coordination between are
16	you speaking on behalf of Block Grain Belt
17	THE WITNESS: Yes.
18	MR. HARDEN: or Missouri Landowners
19	Alliance?
20	THE WITNESS: Definitely Block Grain Belt.
21	There's two separate groups.
22	MR. HARDEN: Right. So the discovery that
23	you're referencing, there's coordination between Block
24	Grain Belt and Missouri Landowners Alliance?
25	THE WITNESS: Limited.

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1	MR. HARDEN: Got it.	
2	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Are you Maddie?	
3	THE WITNESS: Yes.	
4	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Would you raise your hand	
5	please.	
6	(The witness was sworn.)	
7	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Can you say your name?	
8	THE WITNESS: Yes. Maddie Gatrel.	
9	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. You may go	
10	ahead.	
11	THE WITNESS: Hi. My name is Maddie	
12	Gatrel, and I want to tell you why that I want to	
13	stop block Grain Belt Express. They're very bad	
14	people and please do not vote for them. Please vote	
15	for us. Ho, Ho, Merry Christmas.	
16	COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you, Maddie.	
17	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Next witness is Jeff	
18	Gatrel.	
19	(The witness was sworn.)	
20	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Would you please state	
21	your name, and spell your last name.	
22	THE WITNESS: Jeff Gatrel, G-A-T-R-E-L.	
23	JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?	
24	THE WITNESS: Cowgill, Missouri.	
25	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	

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- 1 THE WITNESS: Hello. My name is Jeffrey
- 2 Gatrel, and I raise my family and cattle in Caldwell
- 3 County, Missouri, about seven miles northeast of here.
- 4 We first got involved in the fight in July
- 5 of 2013. We found out one of the possible routes was
- 6 approximately 350 feet from our house. A month
- 7 earlier we had just purchased this house and 80 acres
- 8 from my dad. We were very proud new owners of the
- 9 80-acre tract that was connected to the rest of our
- 10 family farm. It brought a serious change to our live,
- 11 and especially my wife's life, as she has been devoted
- 12 to the fight, working it like a full-time job.
- 13 I would like to backtrack about 64 years
- 14 from that fateful day in July 2013 to July 1949.
- 15 That's the year and month my dad Gary Gatrel, was
- 16 born. He was born very poor and was raised by a
- 17 single mother. He had come from a farming family, but
- 18 due to the circumstances, they lived in an apartment
- 19 in Maryville, Missouri. He dreamed of working and
- 20 living on a farm, but due to the circumstances, they
- 21 lived -- sorry.
- 22 Dad would go and spent the summers at his
- 23 aunt's house outside of Lionville, Iowa. He knew that
- 24 was the life for him, working in the farm.
- 25 Unfortunately, that would never happen in his

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- 1 childhood home. His family never had a car until he
- 2 worked an entire summer at a milk processing plant,
- 3 and bought -- and earned enough money to buy his mom a
- 4 car. He was 14 that summer.
- 5 He graduated high school in May of 1967 and
- 6 joined -- at that time, the Vietnam War was really
- 7 getting fired up. He knew he would be drafted, so he
- 8 took it upon himself and joined the Marine Corps. He
- 9 served two years, and fought on the front lines for 13
- 10 months. After the Marine Corps, he married my mom,
- 11 and they moved to Kansas City. He went to work
- 12 driving a feed truck, supporting them, until she could
- 13 get her nursing degree, all the while, he always
- 14 dreamed of having a cow herd and a farm.
- 15 They moved to Kearney, Missouri, in 1979,
- 16 the year before I was born, to a small acreage outside
- 17 of town. He found a widow woman that needed help
- 18 caring for her small herd of registered Angus cattle.
- 19 He worked for free just for a chance to soak up some
- 20 of her knowledge.
- 21 In 1983, he got a loan and bought his first
- 22 Angus cattle. In 1985, he and my mom bought a 40-acre
- 23 farm with a very modest house. They had finally done
- 24 it and owned a farm.
- 25 Kearney was growing. It was obvious there

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- 1 was little room for expansion of the cow herd, so they
- 2 sold the 40 acres, and bought 280 acres in Caldwell
- 3 County. This is the same farm that Grain Belt would
- 4 run through for half a mile and down the property line
- 5 for another half a mile on the original plan.
- 6 In 2000, I decided I would like to join my
- 7 dad, and we started expanding the herd. We have both
- 8 worked and still work off-farm jobs to help support
- 9 our habit. In 2010, we made our first real profit and
- 10 we had paid off a lot of debt associated with the
- 11 start-up cattle herd, and we had done it. We had
- 12 achieved our dream, the American dream.
- The U.S. is a fantastic place. I believe
- 14 it's the only country on earth where we could have
- 15 achieved our dreams. Every day I am thankful that I
- 16 am an American. The problem is that there is a class
- of people in this beloved country that don't always
- 18 see it that way.
- 19 The Constitution was written by the
- 20 brightest men ever to walk the face of the earth. It
- 21 was given to limit the powers of central planning.
- 22 The Bill of Rights was given so that we could all have
- 23 our inalienable rights.
- I am not against clean energy. I have
- 25 several friends who have home solar units. They love

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- 1 them, and they work very well. This is a sustainable,
- 2 at-the-source stream of renewable electricity, the
- 3 exact opposite of a 780-mile-long, 640-volt
- 4 transmission line, a 700-mile-long line that is the
- 5 direct result of central planning.
- 6 The Grain Belt Clean Line project has been
- 7 moved from our land to three miles south of our
- 8 property. I truly believe that if they get the right
- 9 to build this line, our property could very well be
- 10 next as it has already been staked out.
- 11 I am very proud to be an American. There's
- 12 no way our dad and I could have seen our dream come
- 13 true on any other land on earth. We achieved our
- 14 dream by hard work and a lot of perseverance, and we
- 15 were in charge of our destiny. Please don't let
- 16 central planning steal our future and my kids' future.
- 17 Thank you for hearing us. This is truly
- 18 power to the people at work.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- Jack Malitzke.
- 21 (The witness was sworn.)
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,
- and spell your last name.
- 24 THE WITNESS: Jack Malitzke,
- M-A-L-I-T-Z-K-E.

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1	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?	
2	THE WITNESS: Rural Caldwell County.	
3	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
4	THE WITNESS: Okay. I'm going to start out	
5	by saying that the proposed transmission line is not	
6	going across my land. Two and a half years ago, if	
7	one of the other routes was chosen, it would have been	
8	very uncomfortably close to me. So what happened, we	
9	decided to create an opposition, and I developed such	
10	a passion to stay with this thing for my neighbors,	
11	people I've gotten to know that are raising their	
12	families, and I've learned a lot.	
13	And I won't get into the technical things	
14	because I can't go over the top of them. They've done	
15	a lot more research than I have. But my main point is	
16	the this total abuse of eminent domain. I don't	
17	think the idea of a private corporation wanting to use	
18	our land for their own private gain and that's what	
19	it's all about, it's a money grab. And I shudder at	
20	the thought of maybe some day a foreign country could	
21	own that easement. We complain about the Chinese	
22	coming over here, but we could end up with UK doing	
23	the same thing.	
24	So and as far as jobs go, I spent 38	
25	years as an aircraft mechanic with a major airline.	

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- 1 That was a long-term job, good union job. The jobs
- 2 that come in here are going to be people highly
- 3 trained, and when it's over with, they're going to be
- 4 gone. Now, there might be a few maintenance jobs
- 5 left, but even the suppliers, once everything is
- 6 supplied, it's over with, but then we have to deal
- 7 with the destruction.
- And the reason I bought my farm was so I
- 9 could come home -- I drove to KCI every day. I bought
- 10 a lot of tires. And I came home so I could see the
- 11 peace and quiet, get away from the noise, and look at
- 12 the serenity, and not transmission towers. If I was
- 13 going to buy a farm today, and I went by and saw the
- 14 easement, I would keep on driving.
- 15 So I want to backtrack a little bit. This
- 16 means a whole lot to me, but Jeff Gatrel kind of said
- 17 a little bit of it. In 1945, my father was a prisoner
- 18 of war in Nazi Germany and, to my benefit, one of
- 19 General Patton's armor divisions liberated him and
- 20 some of the last few quys left. But the reason he was
- 21 there was because he was an All American. He was
- 22 fighting for our constitution, our rights, which would
- 23 include land rights.
- And then in '68 and '69, I went to Vietnam
- 25 for the same reason. And when your feet touch America

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- 1 soil, you know it's all over. You can go to school,
- 2 you can go to college, you can get married, you can
- 3 buy land. And that's -- I'm losing my train of
- 4 thought here, but that's the whole idea. You're
- 5 protecting your rights.
- 6 So I'll end it and I'll just say that I'm
- 7 not going to stop supporting the people around me and
- 8 the people that are farming and want to pass it on to
- 9 their kids. I have a neighbor that leases ground from
- 10 me, and I remember his kids, when they weren't old
- 11 enough to drive a car, and now they're running
- 12 combines. So if your land is devalued, some of the
- 13 agricultural is going to go away. And that's what
- 14 this whole state is about is agricultural.
- 15 So myself and everybody here -- let me back
- 16 up. When I spent my year overseas, I saw people had
- 17 things taken from them. They didn't have the
- 18 opportunities we do as an American, to stand here and
- 19 talk to you people. So myself and everybody here
- 20 across the whole State of Missouri, we're relying on
- 21 our elected and appointed public officials to help
- 22 sustain our property rights. That's all I've got to
- 23 say.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- 25 Alice Chastain.

		Page 22
1	(The witness was sworn.)	
2	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,	
3	and spell your last name.	
4	THE WITNESS: Alice Chastain,	
5	C-H-A-S-T-A-I-N.	
6	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?	
7	THE WITNESS: Address is Kingston, but	
8	otherwise Polo.	
9	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please proceed.	
10	THE WITNESS: From everything that I have	
11	heard and read, I just cannot believe that this can be	
12	anything safe about it, and that worries me.	
13	I've lived out here since '73, and my	
14	husband and I, we scrimped and saved and we worked	
15	hard to buy the land that we do own, and paid good	
16	money for it. I cannot see if this goes through, our	
17	property value is just going to I cannot see that	
18	it's going to stay up. I think it's going to drop the	
19	bottom off it because, like someone else said,	
20	somebody coming out, looking for land, and they see	
21	those, they're not going to stop. They're going to	
22	keep right on going. And we spent too much money	
23	trying to get where we are to lose that for that.	
24	They're so ugly. The pictures I've seen is	
25	just ugly. I'm about a mile from where the lines will	

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- 1 go through, but I'm on a high point. I'm going to be
- 2 setting out on my deck, looking at those lines. And
- 3 that's not what I want to see. I want to see
- 4 beautiful countryside. And I can't see where we're
- 5 going to gain anything. All we're going to do is
- 6 lose. And I come into Polo almost every day, and I
- 7 would have to drive under those and by those and see
- 8 that ugly sight, and that just isn't what I want to
- 9 do. Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- 11 Bruce Trammell.
- 12 (The witness was sworn.)
- 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,
- 14 and spell your last name.
- 15 THE WITNESS: Bruce Trammell,
- 16 T-R-A-M-M-E-L-L.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- 18 THE WITNESS: Just outside of town.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- 20 THE WITNESS: Well, let me start with I was
- 21 raised very, very poor. My parents never owned any
- 22 land except for the land they were buried on. I
- 23 worked very hard, my wife and I did, two and three
- 24 jobs, to get where we're at. We own two small pieces
- of property, and we want to turn it down to our

Page 24

- 1 children. And the line will be going -- you'll be
- 2 able to see it from my house.
- I do not want this. It is not what I
- 4 bought this land for 20 some years ago. If I was ever
- 5 to have to sell it or something, it would be worth a
- 6 lot less, I feel. I think it's a really bad way to
- 7 go.
- 8 And on another note, I think it's almost
- 9 criminal, Grain Line coming back in again after the
- 10 fight from before. My daughter and her family and the
- 11 other people on the board doing the fight have
- 12 sacrificed so much to make this not happen. My
- 13 daughter missed her own child's Christmas recital last
- 14 night because of this.
- 15 It is not right to have to fight like this
- 16 to maintain what you own and what you've worked,
- 17 sweated all your life for. I worked for the railroad
- 18 for quite a few years, and had an accident there, and
- 19 had a big brain injury, and I can't work anymore. The
- 20 last meeting we had, I couldn't even walk. And I do
- 21 not want to see this line go through, and it's like a
- 22 David and Goliath thing. It's a money thing. And,
- 23 you know, I think, you know, big money shouldn't be
- 24 able to come in and just do what they want because
- 25 they've got the money to do it with.

Page 25

- 1 I appeal to you folks not to let this
- 2 happen, not to let our rights be taken lightly. And
- 3 if this line goes through, what about Stage 2, 3, 4 or
- 4 whatever? And if this independent outfit is able to
- 5 get where they can go through our land -- I'm not good
- 6 with words, but go through our land just because they
- 7 want to, who is next? What's going to be next? Is
- 8 another country going to come over here and put lines
- 9 that they want through here just because they get the
- 10 right, you know?
- 11 This is my country and this is my farm and
- 12 my kids. I worked all my life. And, believe me, I
- 13 worked hard, and I just don't want to see this. I
- 14 mean, I'll be able to see it from my house, and I just
- 15 think it's absolutely wrong.
- 16 I've been to Canada. I've seen these
- 17 lines. I've seen what they look like. I see how
- 18 they're maintained. They look like a bunch of rust
- 19 buckets that's way up in the air, and they're just
- 20 ugly, and they do nothing but make somebody that's
- 21 already stinking rich, richer.
- 22 That's all I have to say. Thank you for
- 23 your time.
- 24 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.

		Page 26
1	Joe Runions.	
2	(The witness was sworn.)	
3	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Are you Mr. Runions?	
4	THE WITNESS: Yes.	
5	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,	
6	and spell your last name.	
7	THE WITNESS: Joe Runions, R-U-N-I-O-N-S,	
8	Grandview, Missouri.	
9	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
10	THE WITNESS: I am also a state	
11	representative from the South Kansas City/Grandview	
12	area. I sat on the energy and environment committee,	
13	and one of our main principles we want to achieve is	
14	bringing clean, renewable energy to the State of	
15	Missouri, and keep the price down. So this is one	
16	opportunity to do that, along with creating numerous	
17	jobs across the state, you know, we'll have the	
18	linemen come in, but we'll also have three factories	
19	that will be producing the wire, the insulators and	
20	also the equipment, the switching equipment, and	
21	transformers. So I am totally in support of this.	
22	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.	
23	COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you.	
24	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Derek Klinkenborg.	
25	THE WITNESS: Good afternoon.	

		Page 27
1	(The witness was sworn.)	_
2	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,	
3	and spell your last name.	
4	THE WITNESS: My name is Derek Klinkenborg,	
5	K-L-I-N-K-E-N-B-O-R-G.	
6	JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?	
7	THE WITNESS: I live in Overland Park,	
8	Kansas.	
9	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
10	THE WITNESS: Real briefly, before you hold	
11	that against me, it's my wife's fault I moved to	
12	Kansas. I'm originally from Missouri. I grew up in	
13	Cass County. I made myself some notes here. Just one	
14	second.	
15	I'm a professional land surveyor in the	
16	State of Missouri, and I've practiced in the Missouri	
17	area for 33 years. And, as a professional, I	
18	recognize my obligation to not only this community,	
19	but other communities I have worked in over my career.	
20	Like I mentioned, I grew up not far from	
21	here in Belton, Missouri in Cass County. I spent my	
22	formative years on the farm. I can recall a time when	
23	a pipeline came through my dad's farm. He had 700	
24	acres. This was many years ago, and I recall the same	
25	types of things I'm hearing today in terms of their	

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- 1 concerns and the angst that landowners have. I will
- 2 tell you he went through those same things, and it was
- 3 a very emotional time for him.
- 4 The pipeline got built, and many years
- 5 later, just recently in talking to him, it's all
- 6 worked out. It's all worked out. He didn't see a
- 7 great devalue in his land, if any. Land prices have
- 8 continued to go up over the years, and he's been the
- 9 benefactor of that. Him and my mother both still live
- 10 in Belton. Additionally, I've got family from Belton
- 11 to Columbia and Moberly. My wife and I recently sold
- 12 80 acres just south of La Plata on 3 Highway. We sold
- 13 it about three years ago as we had a couple kids we
- 14 had to get through college.
- 15 I'm here today because I'm in favor of the
- 16 project. We have a company in Kansas City that
- 17 employs land surveyors. Obviously, a part of this
- 18 project or a large portion of this project will have
- 19 that part of it, from easements, boundary surveys,
- 20 things like that. So I'm here on a professional, also
- 21 for personal, reasons. Many of our employees work or
- 22 live in the State of Missouri and, obviously, they'll
- 23 benefit economically.
- I wasn't coerced. I just want to say for
- 25 the record I haven't been bribed, I haven't been

Page 29 coerced by Clean Line, or anybody else. I'm here of 2 my own accord for personal reasons. Thank you. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. CHAIRMAN HALL: Thank you. 4 5 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Shan Christopher. 6 (The witness was sworn.) 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 8 and spell your last name. 9 THE WITNESS: Shan Christopher, 10 C-H-R-I-S-T-O-P-H-E-R. 11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 12 THE WITNESS: Polo, Missouri. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 13 14 THE WITNESS: I'm here today to speak to you, the committee, and ask for your support in 15 16 protecting Missouri landowners' rights. Land rights 17 have been the cornerstone on which this country was 18 founded. Our founding fathers designed it to be that 19 way for a reason. If the rights of these lands was 20 ever to be infringed upon, it was to be at the very 21 least possible way and that it would only serve good 22 for all citizens, not some. 23 My basic message is that allowing a private company to seize private lands for their own financial 24 25 gain is completely wrong, and it sets a dangerous

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- 1 precedent, and is a threat to private property in our
- 2 State of Missouri.
- 3 To start, I would like to submit
- 4 documentation to the committee for your review, taken
- 5 directly from the Grain Belt Express Guide for
- 6 Missouri Leaders handbook, given to us by the land
- 7 agent, Kyle Mock, which I have and I'll give to you.
- 8 The first reference is in the code of
- 9 conduct section. The Grain Belt Express says, in
- 10 their book, it should not threaten the use of eminent
- 11 domain. To me, their application for certificate of
- 12 convenience and necessity, which would provide them
- 13 with power of eminent domain, is a definite and
- 14 blatant threat of use of eminent domain.
- The second reference of concern comes from
- 16 Grain Belt Express Transmission Line Easement
- 17 Agreement, page 3, item 8, the right of the Grain
- 18 Belt, under this agreement, may be sold, assigned or
- 19 mortgaged or leased, in whole or in part, by Grain
- 20 Belt at any time. In the event of such sale,
- 21 assignment or lease by Grain Belt of its interest in
- 22 this agreement, Grain Belt shall be released of its
- 23 obligations under this contract to the extent of such
- 24 sale, assignment or lease, provided that any such
- 25 purchase or leases assumes the Grain Belt obligation.

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- 1 Wow. Does that not create red flags? So
- 2 we, as landowners, have zero stability as to who is
- 3 going to be owning, leasing, managing and operating
- 4 these easements that would be crossing our lands.
- 5 That's huge.
- 6 History has shown us all many times big
- 7 business has promised huge financial revenues to gain
- 8 support for their agenda; however, reality is very
- 9 different when it becomes payday. As you see the last
- 10 two references that I quoted on how Grain Belt plans
- 11 to conduct their businesses, the benefits are designed
- 12 to be awarded to their private investors at the
- 13 Missouri landowners' expense.
- 14 In closing, I challenge each one of you on
- 15 the committee to please take a quiet minute, and place
- 16 yourselves in the landowners' shoes to gain a
- 17 perspective from our position.
- I'm a veteran and a cattle producer, and
- 19 this life plan is my working retirement plan. I move
- 20 electric fences every day and rotational graze cattle,
- 21 and I can't ask for permission to do this across my
- 22 own property. I'm extremely concerned about stray
- 23 voltage, reduced property values, along with many
- 24 other concerns that we don't have time to discuss
- 25 today, and it would greatly negatively affect my

Page 32 cattle operation. 2 I ask you sincerely, do not allow our land 3 to be taken for private gain. Thank you. 4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Hand that to 5 the court reporter. 6 That will be Exhibit 52, I think. 7 THE COURT REPORTER: I marked these 8 separately, 51 and 52. JUDGE BUSHMANN: That's fine. That will be 9 53 then. 10 (Exhibit 53 was marked for identification.) 11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Next witness is Sherry 12 13 Christopher. 14 (The witness was sworn.) JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 15 16 and spell your last name. 17 THE WITNESS: Sherry Christopher, 18 C-H-R-I-S-T-O-P-H-E-R. 19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? THE WITNESS: Polo. 20 21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 22 THE WITNESS: Mr. Chairman and members of 23 the commission, I would like to thank you for allowing us to voice our concerns once again. I am 100 percent 24 25 opposed to giving Grain Belt the certificate of

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- 1 necessity to be able to use eminent domain for private
- 2 profit.
- 3 After the last round of testimonies, we
- 4 allowed land agent Kyle Mock to come to our home so we
- 5 could find out their action intentions, what they were
- 6 on our property. He brought us maps showing that the
- 7 lines would run completely through the middle of our
- 8 acreage, only about 80 to 100 feet from the back of
- 9 our home to the easement.
- 10 We were shocked and upset that they would
- 11 even consider building so close to our home. Of
- 12 course, moving it farther away would move it closer to
- 13 the pipeline so, of course, we would be worried about
- 14 pipeline eruption so close to a megawatt power line,
- 15 about tornados, common in the Midwest. I'm sure many
- 16 of you were awoken by tremors from the Oklahoma
- 17 earthquake a few months ago, and it seems to me that
- 18 putting a huge extension cord that supplies the East
- 19 Coast would also put the Midwest at a higher risk of a
- 20 terrorist threat, especially if the line were sold to
- 21 foreign investors who then had access to our lands
- 22 whenever they wanted.
- 23 Since they were promising all this cheap
- 24 electricity for the East Coast, I asked Kyle, "What
- 25 would keep them from raising the rates if they decided

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1 to?" 2 He said, "We don't control the rates. We 3 just provide the line the electricity runs through." 4 So I find it absolutely ludicrous that the Grain Belt is claiming they're going to provide 5 millions of dollars for the counties and schools, and 7 I'm wondering how they could possibly know what their profits will be to make such bold claims when the 8 rates are a moving target. 10 How much money are they planning to make for themselves? It must be an astronomical amount if 11 12 they're giving away millions. Being a registered nurse who teaches 13 14 preventative health, my biggest concern is the known and unknown health and safety risks associated with 15 the line. I would like to submit several references 16 17 for studies that have been concerning human health 18 risk from electromagnetic fields. 19 There are numerous studies that show a direct link to increased risk of childhood leukemia in 20 21 children, rates increasing as they live closer to 22 high-voltage power lines. There's also links to 23 Dr. Martin Blank, Ph.D., speaking about the cellular stress response where cells create stress proteins 24 25 that cause inflammation in our bodies when they are

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- 1 exposed to electromagnetic fields.
- 2 Since chronic inflammation is a precursor
- 3 to cancer, it stands to reason that long-term exposure
- 4 could increase tumor growth and contribute to disease.
- 5 A few of the studies say the findings are inconclusive
- 6 or need more research. More research does need to be
- 7 done. Power lines of this magnitude have not been
- 8 studied. Look how long it took for them to start
- 9 putting warning labels on tobacco. When I was a
- 10 child, smoking was widely accepted. Now, it's a
- 11 requirement that every patient must be educated about
- 12 the dangers of smoking before they're even released
- 13 from a hospital stay.
- Who is going to take the responsibility
- 15 when people living near the lines start getting sick?
- 16 Who is going to pay the doctor pills? One child's
- 17 treatment for leukemia costs well over \$400,000. Is
- 18 it really worth it, even if they provide money for the
- 19 counties, if human lives are affected?
- 20 In the Grain Belt manual it says that under
- 21 nonstandard operating condition or when safety
- 22 measures are not in place, voltage may increase such
- that persons and animals may be affected if they
- 24 contact conductive material, and an elevated current
- 25 is induced.

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- 1 You can't see electromagnetic fields and
- 2 stray energy. Do you think they will tell us if they
- 3 find out there's a malfunction and that we've been
- 4 having increased exposures?
- 5 What if the line did end up increasing
- 6 tumor growth, risk of cancer or childhood leukemia?
- 7 Does it matter if only your child or your family is at
- 8 an increased risk, or are we going to look out for all
- 9 the children and families in Missouri?
- 10 I've been told the line is slated to go
- 11 near two schools also. There are hundreds of people
- 12 who would be directly affected, but what about the
- 13 thousands who will be impacted daily as they drive to
- 14 work under it or on the school bus or view it from
- 15 their front porch or deck?
- 16 Our homes, our land, our health and our
- 17 safety are not negotiable. We are not sacrificial
- 18 lambs for the private profit scheme of Grain Belt
- 19 Express, and I am asking you, when you lay your head
- 20 on your pillow tonight, to think of how you would feel
- 21 if a megawatt power line was built a couple hundred
- 22 feet from your family's home. Would you feel safe?
- 23 Worried, sick or betrayed? Can you put a price tag on
- 24 life? Can you put a price tag on quality of life?
- Thank you for listening.

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1	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.	.6
2	Mark the whole thing as 54.	
3	(Exhibit 54 was marked for identification.)	
4	Next witness is Linda McElwee.	
5	THE WITNESS: It's Linda McElwee.	
6	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay.	
7	(The witness was sworn.)	
8	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Could you please state	
9	your name, and spell your last name.	
10	THE WITNESS: Yes. I'm Linda McElwee, it's	
11	M-C capital E-L-W-E-E.	
12	Good afternoon and welcome back to Caldwell	
13	County I think for the third time. Are you beginning	
14	to feel like stars in the remake of Groundhog Day? We	
15	are.	
16	I'm here today because I'm a mother, a	
17	grandmother, a public health nurse for many, many	
18	years, and a farm wife. My husband and I will be	
19	greatly affected by your decision. We both worked	
20	many, many years to put together our farm for our	
21	children and our grandchildren. The Grain Belt line	
22	will go directly through the middle of our best	
23	farmland, and we know when those easements are done,	
24	they can come and go as they please.	
25	We know that Grain Belt has not produced	
I		

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- one kilowatt of electricity, nor have they transported
- 2 one kilowatt of electricity. They are a group of
- 3 elite investors whose concern is profit.
- 4 I wrote to the secretary of energy in 2014,
- 5 and got a one-page letter back that was full of
- 6 legalese and gobbledygook which was not really
- 7 comprehensible except for two statements. One is the
- 8 Energy Department is committed to establishing a
- 9 national grid. The second, the Department of Energy
- 10 is committed to alternative sources of power. And we
- 11 heard a lot about that during the last campaign, and
- 12 we've lived with this now for, what, three years, as
- 13 we try to decide what's going to happen to us here in
- 14 Caldwell County.
- Nowhere in that letter was concern
- 16 expressed about property owners' rights or citizens'
- 17 rights in the community.
- 18 I heard the gentleman talking about his
- 19 family farm had pipelines, and I'm glad they had no
- 20 problems. We got a farm that had two going through,
- 21 and a third one put in later. That's been over five
- 22 years, and we still have damage, and they tried and
- 23 tried to fix it, and they cannot get it done. So I'm
- 24 telling you the pipeline is not as great as it's
- 25 cracked up to be, but we didn't have any choice.

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- 1 It is my fervent belief that the power
- 2 behind Grain Belt knows where the national grid lines
- 3 will run; that they know what the timeline is, and
- 4 that they plan to buy up the easements, and sell to
- 5 the government for a huge profit.
- 6 This is a monumental land grab. We've all
- 7 heard of the Lincoln County land wars of the 1800s and
- 8 the Wyoming land grab wars where desperados and
- 9 gunfighters came to scare people, intimidate people,
- 10 and force them off their land.
- 11 Today we have Grain Belt, civilized
- 12 desperados who use laws, backroom maneuvering to wrest
- 13 land control away from everyday farmers and ranchers.
- 14 Let's not be pussyfooting around this issue. Let's be
- 15 brutally honest. It is a land grab. You will be
- 16 setting a terrible precedent if you allow this private
- 17 for-profit -- for-profit -- entity to proceed, you'll
- 18 be selling your fellow Missourians down the river.
- 19 Let me summarize. Grain Belt is a
- 20 for-profit entity backed by wealthy elites. They have
- 21 never produced any electricity, nor transported any
- 22 electricity. They have promised us a very lot, but
- 23 there are no guarantees. I ask, entreat and implore
- 24 you to do the right thing for your fellow citizens,
- 25 and deny Grain Belt's request.

		Page 40
1	Do you have any questions for me?	
2	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.	
3	THE WITNESS: Thank you.	
4	Judy Housh.	
5	THE WITNESS: Good morning.	
6	(The witness was sworn.)	
7	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,	
8	and spell your last name.	
9	THE WITNESS: Judy Housh, H-O-U-S-H.	
10	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Could you get right up on	
11	the microphone so they can hear you in the back?	
12	Thank you.	
13	Where do you live, ma'am?	
14	THE WITNESS: In Polo.	
15	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
16	THE WITNESS: We think that this is an	
17	atrocity. Our ancestors settled here generations ago	
18	and, through their hard work and sacrifice, took care	
19	of this land. It is shameful that a for-profit	
20	company is trying again to cheat us out of our land.	
21	Such action has made enough money in the State of	
22	Texas resulting in deterioration of land and	
23	livestock.	
24	We have a beautiful state and we take it	
25	for granted. I don't want our land to look like	

Page 41 Our responsibility to continue the care of 2 land for future generations lies upon us. Please help us with that responsibility. Thank you. 3 4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Jennifer McKnelly-Ginn. 5 6 (The witness was sworn.) 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Could you state your name, 8 and spell your last name. 9 THE WITNESS: Jennifer McKnelly Ginn, M-C, 10 capital K-N-E-L-L-Y, hyphen, G-I-N-N. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 11 12 THE WITNESS: In Polo. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 13 THE WITNESS: My husband and I run a 14 commercial cow/calf operation about four miles outside 15 16 of Polo. We came here in 2004 from another state, and the real estate agent brought me out an hour out of 17 18 Kansas City. I had heard of Polo before, but I came 19 out here. We wanted to get into the cattle business. We had been saving for approximately 18 years, after 20 21 working in corporate America, to get in the cattle 22 business. My husband grew up on a cow/calf operation 23 in West Texas. And if I had come through Caldwell County, 24 25 and I think I had seen these high transmission power

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- lines, I would have told the real estate agent, "Just
- 2 keep on driving. We'll get a little bit further out
- 3 where I can afford the land."
- 4 It's difficult to explain to somebody who
- 5 is not in the cattle industry exactly how something
- 6 like this could affect your day-to-day operations, but
- 7 if you can imagine your cows need several things, they
- 8 need fences to keep them in, they need water, and you
- 9 need to be able to get out and feed them. So if you
- 10 have a pond, and it's around a transmission line, can
- 11 you imagine having a pump, and trying to get around
- 12 with your equipment, you've got to mow, you've got to
- 13 harrow, you've got to get through gates. Somebody
- 14 else you don't know is coming through your gates, so
- 15 you're depending on them -- they're coming in to
- 16 maintain the equipment, the power line equipment, once
- 17 in a while. You're depending on them to have the same
- 18 stake in your livelihood where all your net worth is
- 19 wrapped up in this livelihood, to care about it.
- 20 That's a lot of trust to place on a stranger.
- 21 And in terms of long-term benefits, we're
- 22 lowering the value of our property value by allowing
- 23 this transmission line to go in. It doesn't have a
- 24 long-term impact, and it certainly doesn't help
- 25 somebody like us who has to pay, perhaps, to have

Page 43 aerial crop dusting for herbicide. Can you imagine 2 flying around something like that? The crop duster 3 would say, "I'm not going to take your farm. You're 4 going to have to figure something else out." So in terms of long-term benefit, I don't 5 6 see where it is for the cow/calf producer, for a 7 farmer. And these are two of the primary things that 8 Caldwell County has going for it. We are a sparsely 9 populated area. It isn't like this is going to blend 10 in, say, if you were putting in Jackson County, maybe 11 Platte County, there's more infrastructure, and it 12 might blend in. But these things are going to stick up. They're ugly. I just keep saying the same thing 13 14 about what's the long term benefit for us? That's pretty much what I've got. Thank 15 16 you. 17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. 18 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Alinda Baker. 19 20 (The witness was sworn.) 21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Could you please state 22 your name, and spell your last name. 23 THE WITNESS: It's Alinda Baker, B-A-K-E-R. 24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live? 25 THE WITNESS: Polo.

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1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 2 THE WITNESS: Welcome to our town. 3 Respectfully, I would like to thank you for denying 4 Clean Line's prior application for the Grain Belt Express. Thank you for your ethics and values. First 5 do no harm is one of the principal precepts of bioethics and is a fundamental principal throughout 7 8 the world. My thanks to the many unified, concerned 9 and admirable people who have given their support to 10 block GBE. 11 Clean Lines Investor Group is just talk 12 with a spin. There is a big difference in sales of wishes and hopes, preying on fear rather than mindful 13 respect of current realities. 14 These transmission lines don't appear to be 15 16 the product of a regional planning process, any state 17 or federal process. The Illinois court determined 18 Rock Island is not a public utility. This is a very 19 clear conveyance of information to Grain Belt Express. Grain Belt's Illinois nonutility use of an expedited 20 21 process is in appeal in the Fifth District. Illinois 22 is the number one USA nuclear state. They may never 23 plan to use RICL or GBE electricity. 24 Clean Line is not an electricity generator. 25 They're not trying to sell electricity. They are

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- 1 trying to sell capacity on a transmission line. The
- 2 electricity generation charge from other businesses is
- 3 separate from Clean Line's transmission charge. If
- 4 cities find these combined charges too high, they
- 5 don't have to buy anything at all. Once the renewable
- 6 taxpayer subsidies are phased out in the next five
- 7 years, the competition for wind energy may decrease.
- 8 Atlantic offshore and Great Lakes wind is
- 9 wonderful, strong. Most of the nuclear sites are east
- 10 of the Missouri. The eastern states want to produce
- 11 and use their clean green electricity locally. It's
- 12 so confusing.
- 13 MISO provides safe, reliable, equal and
- 14 nondiscriminatory access to the electric transmission
- 15 system for generator interconnection projects. I
- 16 don't understand how MISO can assess the dynamics of a
- 17 generating facility if it isn't there now. How can
- 18 they connect to a designated clean line when
- 19 transmission has to be nondiscriminatory to all
- 20 generators?
- 21 Really, for very long power lines, looking
- 22 like stitches across and fro the virtually unscathed
- 23 heart of the United States, affecting 60,000 acres,
- 24 both compromising income and devaluing land, wow,
- 25 that's a lot of hopeful speculation to facilitate

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- 1 electricity generation because energy development is
- 2 not what Clean Line does. This sounds like it weighs
- 3 more towards economic development than to public use.
- 4 In an article by Steven Syre, the Boston
- 5 Globe, June 23rd, 2014, titled "National Grid's Shifty
- 6 Route to Lower Tax Bills," he said the Massachusetts
- 7 Department of Revenue called National Grids on tactics
- 8 in question years ago, and told it to pay at least 1.6
- 9 million, an amount covering only a single tax year.
- 10 As part of its utility acquisition
- 11 financing, the company found a way to lend itself
- 12 money and, along the way, charge itself interest.
- 13 This arrangement was invented as a kind of arbitrage,
- 14 exploiting difference in the tax code in the United
- 15 States and the United Kingdom. As a result, the
- 16 interest was paid in America, and claimed as a tax
- 17 deduction. The income from debt payments showed up in
- 18 the UK in a way that is not subject to taxes.
- To the USA Energy Economics, Plan Eastern
- 20 Clean Lines presentation mentioned market power
- 21 arbitrage could yield up to 60 million a year,
- 22 assuming perfect execution on unused capacity up to a
- 23 thousand megawatts of Oklahoma Tennessee service and
- 24 500 megawatts of Oklahoma Arkansas service over the
- 25 entire project.

Page 47 What is arbitrage? Arbitrage is the 1 2 simultaneous buying and selling of securities, currency or commodities or in different markets or in 3 4 derivative forms in order to take advantage of different pricings for the same asset. 5 6 This is from "Clean Line's Dirty Little 7 Secret," November 2nd, 2016, Karen Newman. The Daily News, November 10, 2014, Frances Enfont (phonetic) 8 9 says the UK is tearing out ponds at 7 million each. 10 The hard working farmers I know just want to work their jobs producing food, enjoy their land, their 11 investment and views, nurture their cows, goats, dogs, 12 13 cats, guinea hens without exploitation, without 14 suffering. We want to strengthen these relationships we have developed which are based on kindness, courage 15 16 fair dealing and diligence. 17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. I'm afraid 18 your time has expired. 19 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Cheryl Starner. 21 (The witness was sworn.) 22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 23 and spell your last name. 24 THE WITNESS: Cheryl Starner, 25 S-T-A-R-N-E-R.

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1	JUDGE BUSHMANN: And can you get close to	
2	the microphone?	
3	THE WITNESS: Sure. Is that better?	
4	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Yes. Thank you.	
5	Where do you live?	
6	THE WITNESS: Kansas City, Missouri.	
7	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
8	THE WITNESS: I thank you for coming out	
9	today, listening to us who have traveled to come	
10	before you today. I represent a segment of the	
11	community that may be too busy to be here this week,	
12	the working moms. Working moms aren't able to come to	
13	the hearings like this because of soccer practice,	
14	working double shifts, preparing a meal for the	
15	family, but I can tell you working moms will benefit	
16	from the Grain Belt Express.	
17	A working mom might be a teacher that gets	
18	a raise because, for once, this area will see a	
19	project that has a significant impact on local	
20	property taxes. Working moms might be able to not	
21	have to work a double because their husbands might get	
22	a job constructing the line, or perhaps they won't	
23	have to worry about their husbands being on the road	
24	all week just to come back home and see their families	
25	only on the weekends.	

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Fax: 314.644.1334

Work is hard to find in Missouri. Many men 1 2 and women are now traveling out of state to work to 3 only come home -- the commute for the week means these 4 people aren't staying home and spending their money here. It also means their kids don't get to see their 5 dads as often because they're out trying to make ends 7 meet. 8 In households, most of the time it's a 9 woman that is paying the bills. This project will 10 save consumers as much as \$10 million annually in the state, and I don't know if you have ever been worried 11 about a local utility company turning off your 12 electricity, but if you have, you know the stress and 13 14 anxiety it puts on working moms and their kids. I was a single mom with two kids. I worked 15 16 two jobs. I'm proud to say they all went on to become 17 successful adults on their own. On behalf of working 18 moms, though, I ask that you please approve this 19 project so we can see the public benefits come to 20 fruition. Thank you.

JUDGE BUSHMANN: Would you please state

JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.

(The witness was sworn.)

LaWanda Davis.

your name, and spell your last name.

21

22

23

24

25

Page 50 THE WITNESS: My name is LaWanda Davis, 1 2 D-A-V-I-S. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live? 4 THE WITNESS: South Kansas City. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 5 6 THE WITNESS: Members of the committee, I 7 appreciate your consideration of this project, as it is in the state's best public interest. I want you to 8 9 know there are many of us out here in Missouri that 10 are waiting to see if you are willing to approve an investment in our infrastructure or if you will live 11 in fear of the fake news. 12 13 Here we are, saying we all want 14 infrastructure improvement, a more robust and smarter grid, and we're asking you to please help make this 15 16 happen. Please know there is misinformation out there. There are folks saying this project will make 17 18 people sick. Ask IBEW if that's the case. 19 There are people that claim that there is 20 no compensation. Ask them if they've ever talked to 21 the folks from Clean Line to see if they even know 22 what they're talking about. They say there will be other utilities that build in the easement. This 23 project is just for this community. If someone else 24 25 wants to come along and do this, they'll have to ask

Page 51 landowners and the PSC for permission. 2 There is so much misinformation swirling 3 around that is unanswered. We should be begging Clean 4 Line and others to come to our state to provide cheaper energy jobs and infrastructure. 5 6 Interestingly, we aren't providing this company tax 7 credit or incentive to do so. This is the free market 8 saying hey, we need cheap green energy, and if it takes a new entrant to the market, that's okay. 10 Please approve this project for Missouri. 11 We can't continue to be the state that says no to progress. We need the jobs, we need the power, and we 12 need the infrastructure. 13 14 Thank you for your time. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. 15 16 Christian Starner. 17 (The witness was sworn.) 18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 19 and spell your last name. 20 THE WITNESS: Christian S-T-A-R-N-E-R. 21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 22 THE WITNESS: In Kansas City. 23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 24 THE WITNESS: Members of the Commission, 25 thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony. I

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- 1 came here today to express my support of the Grain
- 2 Belt Express project because our public utility
- 3 infrastructure is in dire need of updating.
- 4 Our society is one of mass consumption, and
- 5 energy is no exception, and while more and more people
- 6 use energy, it comes at a cost, ever increasing
- 7 pollution, an unreliable grid system that produces
- 8 outages and frequent rate increases.
- 9 The Grain Belt Express project provides
- 10 Missouri an opportunity to join neighboring states
- 11 like Kansas, Indiana and Illinois in adopting cleaner
- 12 and more reliable energy alternatives, and will allow
- 13 citizens of the Show Me State to tap into an
- 14 unharnessed natural resource capable of powering
- 15 millions of customers in an earth-friendly manner.
- 16 The Grain Belt Express project could go a
- 17 long way toward reducing carbon emissions while also
- 18 generating on demand and reliable electricity.
- 19 Wind-generated power is one of the lowest
- 20 priced renewable energy technologies available today,
- 21 and projects such as this could save rate payers such
- 22 as myself millions of dollars down the line to the
- tune of about 10 million annually.
- 24 And this is all in the absence of
- 25 Missouri-based subsidies which illustrates why I

Page 53 believe wind energy can be a viable component of our 2 infrastructure future. So I ask you, members of the Commission, 3 isn't it time to invest in our state's infrastructure? 4 Please don't let Missouri continue to lag behind our 5 6 neighbors on this important issue. 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. 8 THE WITNESS: Thank you. And if I may, can 9 I submit something for your perusal. 10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: You can give that to the 11 court reporter. 12 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And that will be 55. (Exhibit 55 was marked for identification.) 14 15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Next witness is Casey 16 Gurnsey. 17 (The witness was sworn.) 18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 19 and spell your last name. 20 THE WITNESS: Casey Guernsey, C-A-S-E-Y, G-U-E-R-N-S-E-Y. 21 22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 23 THE WITNESS: Bethany. 24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 25 THE WITNESS: Members of the Commission,

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- 1 it's an honor to be in front of you today. I served
- 2 as state representative for North Central and
- 3 Northwest Missouri, encompassing all or parts of nine
- 4 counties from 2006 until 2014, where I served on
- 5 various utility-related committees and also chaired
- 6 the agricultural committee.
- 7 I grew up on our family farm, and have been
- 8 active in the agricultural industry my entire life,
- 9 including now. I was introduced to this project back
- 10 in 2013, and I was excited about the rare investment
- 11 in North Missouri, its jobs and our communities. Our
- 12 farm has transmission lines on our property, and
- 13 they're accepted parts of the landscape.
- 14 What this project means to our area is jobs
- 15 and property tax base in part of the state where both
- 16 are rapidly disappearing. I found the folks from the
- 17 project to be honest in their dealings, and they
- 18 provided me with all the information I needed to learn
- 19 more about the issues, including the protections for
- 20 landowners.
- 21 It's important to note that the easement
- 22 we're talking about is specific to this project and to
- 23 this project only, not additional utilities that could
- 24 use the same path.
- In addition, the project will try to

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- 1 encourage binding arbitration if the project and
- 2 landowners can't come to an agreement. An ag
- 3 inspector will also have the opportunity to stop
- 4 construction on the project if something isn't going
- 5 as promised. And in today's world it's important to
- 6 get things right, and this project has gone above and
- 7 beyond, including in the compensation it's offering to
- 8 help meet the needs of local landowners.
- 9 I grew up in a rural area just like this
- 10 one that we're in today, and it's heartbreaking to see
- 11 your brothers, your cousins and your friends move away
- 12 because of job opportunities that are slim in the
- 13 area. The Grain Belt Express can help change that.
- 14 It's also going to provide cheaper energy to cities in
- 15 my area, specifically Bethany, where I live, and where
- 16 people are having a harder and harder time to make
- 17 ends meet because of the rising energy costs around
- 18 the nation.
- I ask you to please know that for those who
- 20 choose to be informed and really study these issues,
- 21 this is in the State's public interests in every way,
- 22 including the positive impact it has on local areas,
- 23 including the ones where I represented and live today.
- I would be happy to take any questions.
- 25 Thank you.

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1	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.	
2	CHAIRMAN HALL: Thank you.	
3	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Trevor Naglieri.	
4	(The witness was sworn.)	
5	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,	
6	and spell your last name.	
7	THE WITNESS: Trevor N-A-G-L-I-E-R-I.	
8	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?	
9	THE WITNESS: Kansas City.	
10	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
11	THE WITNESS: Members of the Commission,	
12	thank you for having me here today. I ask you that	
13	you please support the Grain Belt Express. I'm from	
14	the East Coast, and I have seen the type of	
15	infrastructure investments they make there. Missouri	
16	is falling behind. We need an above-all energy	
17	approach to energy, and the 10 million in savings to	
18	Missouri consumers will make a huge impact on our	
19	State's employers and residents.	
20	For landowners that can't come to an	
21	agreement on what price with Clean Line Energy,	
22	binding arbitration can be used. This compensation to	
23	landowners can be used to purchase new farm equipment,	
24	trucks, college savings or grain storage.	
25	The jobs created will help put Missourians	

Page 57 back to work so they can pay their bills, invest in 2 homes, vehicles and small businesses. The property 3 taxes will help local schools and put rock on gravel 4 roads. Please approve this project. It is in the 5 6 State's public interest, especially for North 7 Missouri. Thank you. 8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Mitchel Rice. 9 10 (The witness was sworn.) JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 11 12 and spell your last name. 13 THE WITNESS: Mitchel Rice, R-I-C-E. 14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live? THE WITNESS: Rural Chariton County, 15 16 Salisbury area. 17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 18 THE WITNESS: Mr. Chairman and 19 Commissioners, thank you for this opportunity to 20 speak. I realize it has been a long process for you, 21 and filled with very much emotion. I would like to 22 talk to you today in support of this project as the 23 owner/operator of a row crop and cow/calf operation. 24 The proposed route of the Grain Belt 25 Express is currently going through three of my rented

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- 1 farms, and within a half mile of my family farm where
- 2 I reside, and we would dearly love to see this line
- 3 cross this property.
- In my dealings with Clean Line, both as a
- 5 tenant and hopeful landowner, I found them to be
- 6 nothing less than kind, courteous and available. They
- 7 have respected my concerns, and answered any questions
- 8 I've had.
- 9 After dealing with other infrastructure
- 10 projects, I was concerned with damages to my crops and
- 11 land. The Clean Line staff was more than forthcoming
- 12 in talking to me about potential damages, and the
- 13 compensation plan laid out in their Missouri Landowner
- 14 Protocol and their Agricultural Impact Mitigation
- 15 Protocol. Throughout my discussions with employees of
- 16 Clean Line, I felt reassured to know they would
- 17 respect my property and crops. It is even more
- 18 reassuring for them to have added these two pieces to
- 19 their application to the PSC. I have no doubt they
- 20 will be respectful to my property and crops, causing
- 21 least possible damage and also pay adequately for loss
- 22 of my crops and time.
- I heard many testimonies last week about
- 24 century farm landowners who are concerned about the
- 25 future of their family farms. I would like to address

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- 1 this concern from a different perspective. It is
- 2 unlikely I will have the opportunity to become a
- 3 century farm owner, even though I am a
- 4 fifth-generation farmer in Chariton County.
- 5 My family had to restructure and sell the
- 6 majority of our land in the '80s due to high interest
- 7 rates and local banks restructuring due to coal mines
- 8 around the Thomas Hill power plant. At the age of
- 9 five, I had to watch my father and grandfather
- 10 struggle to make ends meet, and to do their best to
- 11 protect the only lifestyle I knew by rebuilding our
- 12 farming operation.
- 13 If a project such as this had existed on
- 14 our property, much of the burden we have experienced
- 15 would have been relieved. With current agricultural
- 16 and land trends, I see this as a very valuable hedge
- 17 against unknown challenges the future will bring.
- 18 With projects such as Grain Belt Express, my wife and
- 19 daughters may get to experience the pride of owning a
- 20 century farm.
- 21 Not only do I see this project as
- 22 beneficial to landowners, I also see the need of
- 23 revenue to rural Missouri. Our communities are
- 24 struggling. As jobs leave the area, families are
- 25 leaving to find work. In my home area of Chariton

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- 1 County, our population has dropped dramatically in the
- 2 recent years.
- 3 Infrastructure projects such as the Grain
- 4 Belt Express are vital to local economies it will
- 5 cross to provide revenue for our schools, county
- 6 government and emergency services.
- 7 As you continue to weigh the facts in Clean
- 8 Line's application, I request your support of this
- 9 project by approving the Grain Belt Express project.
- 10 You will be providing financial stability to
- 11 landowners, long-term revenue to schools and local
- 12 services, and economic stimulus to the communities
- 13 along the project line.
- 14 Modern infrastructure is necessary to keep
- 15 the future of Missouri bright for generations to come.
- 16 Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- 18 THE WITNESS: I would like to submit the
- 19 two protocols as evidence.
- 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Okay. That will be 56 and
- 21 57.
- 22 (Exhibits 56 and 57 were marked for
- 23 identification.)
- 24 CHAIRMAN HALL: So have you executed an
- 25 easement?

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1	THE WITNESS: No, I have not.	
2	CHAIRMAN HALL: And why not?	
3	THE WITNESS: Because my landowner is in	
4	the nursing home. He is going to, but he wants to	
5	wait. I'll be honest. We've had some neighbors	
6	bully, and he's scared to death of some of the	
7	neighbors, and we're waiting for the I mean, he's	
8	90 years old. He is scared to death, even though my	
9	father-in-law and I were there with him. We're just	
10	trying to protect him as much as possible.	
11	CHAIRMAN HALL: You are the landowner?	
12	THE WITNESS: I am the tenant. I have been	
13	requesting to move to our land because I see it as	
14	beneficial to I mean, we're right along the route,	
15	and we have neighbors that don't want it. We would	
16	love to have it. But I am a tenant of three farms	
17	that it's going through.	
18	CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. You mentioned at	
19	length your admiration for the landowner protocol. I	
20	was wondering if you could just tell me what you think	
21	the most important provision in there is.	
22	THE WITNESS: It's black and white that	
23	they're going to cover any damages that they have	
24	done, you know, to drainage issues or tillage issues.	
25	We've had five pipelines go through seven	

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- 1 farms in the last five years -- or not five years, ten
- 2 years in Chariton County, and two of the pipelines
- 3 were wonderful, absolutely wonderful, did everything.
- 4 The most recent one, we cannot get them to fix
- 5 anything. We did not have the protocol, and they just
- 6 said you signed off on it, and they left messes. And
- 7 this is protection for us. It's in black and white
- 8 saying what they are going to do for us.
- 9 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Thank you.
- 10 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Next witness is C.R. Bud
- 12 Motsinger.
- 13 (The witness was sworn.)
- 14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,
- 15 and spell your last name.
- 16 THE WITNESS: My name is Bud Motsinger,
- M-O-T-S-I-N-G-E-R.
- 18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- 19 THE WITNESS: I live just north of
- 20 Kingston.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- 22 THE WITNESS: Good afternoon. My name is
- 23 Bud Motsinger. I serve as presiding commissioner here
- 24 in Caldwell County. I do want to thank you, as the
- 25 Public Service Commission, for taking time to come to

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- 1 Caldwell County and to hear from the public, and
- 2 listen to our opinions concerning Grain Belt Express
- 3 Clean Line.
- As a county commissioner, we are to
- 5 represent and express the concerns of our constituents
- 6 here in Caldwell County. The citizens of Caldwell
- 7 County have overwhelmingly expressed their opposition
- 8 to the construction of the proposed Grain Belt Express
- 9 transmission line through Caldwell County.
- 10 The citizens of Caldwell County have also
- 11 expressed their opposition and concerns that if the
- 12 Public Service Commission were to grant Grain Belt
- 13 Express with the public utility status, that the
- 14 privately-owned company would use that public utility
- 15 status to obtain the needed easements to construct
- 16 their DC transmission line on private property by use
- of eminent domain or by the taking of private property
- 18 from individuals that do not desire to have the
- 19 transmission line on their property.
- The power of eminent domain is often a
- 21 necessary provision of the law allowing the public
- 22 utilities, transportation and other government
- 23 entities to conduct business for the greater good of
- 24 the general public; however, it was not meant to be
- 25 used by a private for-profit company to use to take

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- 1 private land from private citizens for the benefit of
- 2 the larger company to make a profit.
- 3 The law allows for negotiation in reaching
- 4 an agreeable selling price, if desired, or allowing
- 5 the property owner to reject all offers, and keep
- 6 their property.
- 7 As a county commissioner, we do not oppose
- 8 the use of renewable fuel such as wind energy. We
- 9 realize that energy produced by wind farms must be
- 10 transmitted from the wind farm to become a part of the
- 11 overall energy power grid to service the energy needs
- 12 of Missouri.
- We do have several large windmill and
- 14 windmill farms here in North Missouri to serve the
- 15 energy needs of North Missouri. Our primary objection
- 16 is the use of eminent domain to take private property
- 17 from private citizens. We have five private pipelines
- 18 that are buried underground running through Caldwell
- 19 County which transport various petroleum products.
- 20 These pipelines negotiated with the landowners to
- 21 obtain easements to construct through their private
- 22 properties at an agreed-upon price.
- 23 We recently met with our pipelines, and a
- 24 pipeline safety meeting with the five fire departments
- 25 and first responders. There was concern that the

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- 1 proposed Grain Belt Express transmission line is
- 2 following the same route or the same corridor through
- 3 the county as the pipeline, and some of these concerns
- 4 were safety issues with the direct current line being
- 5 so close to the highly explosive petroleum products
- 6 under pressure in these pipelines.
- 7 There was also concern about the
- 8 construction near the pipeline for drilling and
- 9 blasting through rock to set the power poles and the
- 10 towers. There was some concern with the power lines
- 11 interfering with the pipeline when checking the
- 12 pipelines by air for possible leaks or damages.
- Some landowners have objected to the DC
- 14 power lines being visible, and potentially reducing
- 15 the aesthetic value of their property values. Power
- 16 lines constructed above ground are more subject to
- 17 damage from wind, ice, fire and possibly acts of
- 18 violence. The power lines could be buried underground
- 19 like the pipelines are. Out of sight, out of mind.
- 20 It may be more costly to bury the transmission lines
- 21 and it may cost -- cut into the projected profits of
- 22 the for-profit private investment company, but it is
- 23 an alternative.
- We understand that wind power and other
- 25 renewable fuels have been heavily subsidized by the

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- 1 government. They are in direct competition with other
- 2 sources of energy such as petroleum and coal.
- 3 Caldwell County is currently in the process
- 4 of adding fiberoptic lines. Those are also being
- 5 buried underground. We feel that the transmission
- 6 lines should be required to follow the same procedures
- 7 as other private companies such as the pipelines, and
- 8 not be given an unfair advantage by allowing them to
- 9 have the power of eminent domain to take private
- 10 property.
- We do question the need for the
- 12 transmission lines where we can produce the power here
- 13 in Missouri ourselves. If Grain Belt Express were to
- 14 file bankruptcy in the future, we are concerned about
- 15 the removal of these proposed lines and the promises
- 16 that have been made if they fail to the landowners and
- 17 also the public entity.
- Our main concern is giving Grain Belt the
- 19 power of -- a for-profit company the power of eminent
- 20 domain. Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- 22 (Exhibit 58 was marked for identification.)
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Next witness is Nathaniel
- 24 Wagers.
- 25 (The witness was sworn.)

Page 67 1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 2 and spell your last name. 3 THE WITNESS: Nathaniel Wagers, 4 W-A-G-E-R-S. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 5 THE WITNESS: Andrew County, Missouri. 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 8 THE WITNESS: Unfortunately, I did not grow 9 up on a farm, but I was lucky enough to marry a farm 10 girl. My wife is a fourth-generation, and my kids will be the fifth generation on the same family farm. 11 My father-in-law farmed every day until the 12 day he died. He loved the land. He wouldn't even 13 tear a tree out, even if it was in the middle of a 14 field. He hated to change the landscape, but when the 15 16 windmills first started coming in and around Gentry 17 County, he was a big proponent of it. He told me why. 18 He wanted the land to stay and be healthy for his 19 grandchildren after him, which I believe these new 20 projects will continue to keep the land the way it is. 21 I understand that these will not be the prettiest 22 things anybody has seen, but I do think that it will 23 help the long-term environment. 24 I'm sure that when the telegraph first came 25 across, people didn't want it. The first phone line

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- 1 that came across the country, people hated too, and
- 2 everyone knows that the railroad was very -- I'm
- 3 sorry. Everyone knows that not the railroad, but
- 4 where would we be without those. I do stand up in
- 5 support of this, but I would urge the powers to be
- 6 that if this project goes through, that you leave the
- 7 land better than you found it. Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- 9 Edward Hubert.
- 10 (The witness was sworn.)
- 11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,
- 12 and spell your last name.
- 13 THE WITNESS: Ed Hubert, H-U-B-E-R-T.
- 14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?
- 15 THE WITNESS: Rural Platte County,
- 16 Missouri.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- 18 THE WITNESS: My name is Ed Hubert. I'm a
- 19 26-year Missouri resident. My wife is a
- 20 sixth-generation Platte Countyian, and then my son is
- 21 seventh generation.
- 22 I work as an environmental scientist for a
- 23 company with seven offices and more than 250 employees
- 24 in the State of Missouri, so I'm here today to express
- 25 my own personal support for the Clean Line project as

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- 1 a Missouri resident, and also the support of my
- 2 company for the project as a significant Missouri
- 3 employer.
- 4 I'm a proponent of clean energy,
- 5 particularly market-driven clean energy like this
- 6 project will support. Specifically, I'm a fan of the
- 7 hundreds of thousands of jobs clean energy development
- 8 has created in the United States over the past decade.
- 9 My own job is supported largely by clean energy
- 10 projects. And as someone who has worked in the energy
- 11 industry for many years, I can attest to the accuracy
- 12 of the estimates that the Clean Line project will
- 13 bring 1500 new jobs to Missouri, and lower cost energy
- 14 to my fellow Missourians.
- 15 As a Missouri resident, I believe our state
- 16 needs the \$500 million financial investment that the
- 17 Clean Line project represents, and our local
- 18 governments will benefit from the property taxes.
- 19 My work as an environmental scientist for
- 20 more than 30 years has informed my belief that the
- 21 United States will benefit from continued clean energy
- 22 development. We need this development to provide a
- 23 more stable economy, improve our national security,
- 24 and maintain our standard of living. And projects
- 25 like Clean Line are essential for bringing that clean

Page 70 1 energy to market. 2 Speaking again as a Missourian, I'm 3 impressed with the efforts Clean Line has made to 4 ensure that this project will make it possible for my fellow Missouri residents all across the state to more 5 6 easily obtain access to clean, affordable energy. 7 And as an environmental scientist, I'm also very impressed with what I've seen of Clean Line's new 8 9 plans initiated in response to public feedback from the previous hearings for protecting the environment, 10 minimizing impacts from the project to the land and 11 the landowners affected by it, referring specifically 12 to the Missouri Landowner Protocol and the 13 14 Agricultural Impact Mitigation Protocol. I urge the Commission to act in the best 15 16 interest overall of the state and its citizens by approving this project. Thank you. 17 18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Jonathan Abbott. 19 20 (The witness was sworn.) 21 JUDGE BUSHMANN: State your name please, 22 and spell your last name. 23 THE WITNESS: My name is Jonathan Abbott, 24 A-B-B-O-T-T. 25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?

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- 1 THE WITNESS: Rural Lincoln County,
- 2 Cowgill, Missouri. Lincoln Township. Correction.
- 3 I'm a member of Caldwell County. I'm also the east
- 4 commissioner elect representative of Caldwell County.
- 5 I've heard several things, actually, over
- 6 the last couple of years since I've lived there. I am
- 7 not an original Caldwell County native. I grew in the
- 8 military, lived all over the United States. I've
- 9 owned several businesses of my own. I've had the
- 10 chance to live in big cities, I've had the chance to
- 11 live in rural areas, so my perspective doesn't come
- 12 from someone who is a native of this area. My
- 13 perspective comes from someone who has seen a lot of
- 14 different things succeed and fail.
- I am not a farmer; however, I happily will
- 16 teach the child my wife is about to have, that we're
- 17 about to have, how to be a farmer because there's
- 18 excellent qualities therein.
- 19 We did not move out here to see power
- 20 lines. We moved away from big cities, Phoenix
- 21 metropolitan area, San Francisco, Huntsville, Alabama;
- 22 New York, places I've lived, to get away from big
- 23 power lines. If you want big power lines near a big
- 24 city to facilitate the power needs of another big
- 25 city, run it through Kansas City. If they want jobs

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- 1 in Platte County or Kansas City, if they aren't
- 2 opposed to those, let them have them. I know why they
- 3 don't go there because there's far more regulations,
- 4 there's far more complaints, there's far more things
- 5 that they have to do to make those needs met in those
- 6 areas.
- 7 We get that. We're not naive out here. We
- 8 know why they want to come out here because we are a
- 9 small population base. I happily stand before you, as
- 10 the other county commissioner did previous, to let you
- 11 know that the majority, almost all of Caldwell County,
- 12 does not want these power lines. They don't. There's
- 13 no benefit to us.
- I've heard the claim for jobs. I'll
- 15 briefly touch on this. It is very common that our
- 16 industry of jobs in the making are being subsidized by
- 17 electronics and efficiencies because we know people
- 18 become inefficient. It's always a complaint for job
- 19 production. These power plants and these lines are
- 20 designed to be self-sustaining, running with minimal
- 21 manpower because they don't want to pay for the
- 22 benefits, the workers' comp, the injuries, the hourly
- 23 wage. They want to be able to let a computer do it.
- 24 So once these power lines are up, those jobs are done.
- 25 You can go find another job, working at another power

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- 1 plant somewhere else, or you can dig another ditch.
- 2 It doesn't have to come through Caldwell
- 3 County. Ray County is right here next door to us.
- 4 Have you approached Ray County? Four miles south, Ray
- 5 County. Why not them? South of Kansas City, Cass
- 6 County, Johnson County, they're pretty rural. Why not
- 7 them? If this power line is coming through Dodge
- 8 City, Kansas, across all Kansas, why us? Is it
- 9 because we're the lowest population base, and you
- 10 think we are the least impacted? We are greatly
- 11 impacted.
- 12 My wife and I actually are building solar
- 13 and wind power on our property. It is expensive. It
- 14 is cost-prohibitive. The maintenance and repairs are
- 15 challenging. To tell us that 500 megawatts will be
- 16 available in this centralized Missouri plant -- and I
- 17 was just told over here by the representatives of
- 18 Clean Line that they are only allowing 500 because
- 19 that facility is not capable to sustain more power.
- 20 As populations grow, and power needs increase, guess
- 21 what? You're going to have to rebuild that entire
- 22 infrastructure to support the power output of a
- 23 500-megawatt system.
- That cost never goes to the investors. I
- 25 know. I'm a business -- I used to be a business

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- 1 owner. That cost goes to the recipient and the user
- 2 of that product. Your business expense will become
- 3 cost increase to energy users. None of us want to pay
- 4 increase in energy. Sure, we want increased
- 5 reliability in energy. That's unjustifiable to just
- 6 come in through here and say we're going to claim that
- 7 this is a benefit to this county when it's benefitting
- 8 Cincinnati, Cleveland, maybe rural and metro
- 9 St. Louis, maybe, if they want to buy it. It's
- 10 supposed to go to Chicago, but I understand that
- 11 they're not going to get the majority of it.
- If we don't want to buy into that system,
- 13 those costs and expenses go to someone else. I'm a
- 14 public servant outside of being a county commissioner.
- 15 If there's an emergency that happens, which was
- 16 referenced earlier by the county commissioner, if one
- 17 of these lines break, guess who responds? Me. Those
- 18 men over there. Risk. Are they counting the risks
- 19 for all of us? Have they considered what they're not
- 20 going to cover, the damage to our roads, our life and
- 21 safety? I don't think they have. They haven't
- 22 approached me. They haven't said, "Hey, sir, hey law
- 23 enforcement members, this is what you're going to have
- 24 to train for when one of these falls or one of these
- 25 lines blow up."

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1	Where is my training? Are you going to pay	
2	for that for everyone in this area, every resident?	
3	Thank you.	
4	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.	
5	Let's take a short break. We'll be in	
6	recess for about 10 minutes.	
7	(A brief recess was taken.)	
8	(Exhibit 59 was marked for identification.)	
9	JUDGE BUSHMANN: The next witness is Jerry	
10	Crutchfield, I think.	
11	(The witness was sworn.)	
12	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,	
13	and spell your last name.	
14	THE WITNESS: Jerry Crutchfield,	
15	C-R-U-T-C-H-F-I-E-L-D.	
16	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?	
17	THE WITNESS: In Randolph County, Missouri.	
18	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
19	THE WITNESS: I'm the western district	
20	commissioner of Randolph County, and a life-long	
21	resident of Randolph County. My wife and I live on a	
22	hundred-acre farm that's been in her family for a	
23	century. I'm here in support of Grain Belt Clean Line	
24	project.	
25	I will refer to the results of keeping	

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- 1 cattle under a high voltage direct current power line.
- 2 In this study, 800 Holstein cows were divided into two
- 3 equal groups, and placed under -- one of them in their
- 4 normal place and one of them under the direct current
- 5 power line. After five years of study, there were no
- 6 differences recorded in milk production, reproduction,
- 7 morbidity or mortality between the two sets of cows.
- 8 Now, I realize the physiology of a cow is
- 9 somewhat different than that of a person, but these
- 10 animals are scrutinized every day of their life for
- 11 health, productivity and economic value. And at the
- 12 end of five years, there was no impact recorded from
- 13 being around direct current power lines.
- 14 Also in the Northwest part of the country,
- 15 direct current power lines carry power from Oregon and
- 16 Washington into California. This has been going on
- 17 for several years. The power line that I'm referring
- 18 to is exactly the same size as the proposed Clean Line
- 19 project.
- 20 After 20 some odd years in California,
- 21 there has been no adverse impact recorded in
- 22 association with direct current. If the people of
- 23 California can find no fault with direct current, I
- 24 guess I'm happy, too.
- I hear the use of eminent domain across

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- 1 Missouri is bad. Eminent domain has been a part of
- 2 English law since 1620. My experience was in 2005, a
- 3 pipeline come through my property adjacent to an
- 4 existing pipeline. It come within a few feet of the
- 5 house that my wife and I had built and lived in for
- 6 four years. My neighbors could not wait to be a part
- 7 of this project.
- 8 After research and study, I found out that
- 9 the pipeline was going to go under my garage connected
- 10 to my house. I was concerned. With some thought,
- 11 some understanding, the pipeline folks come in. It
- 12 took six minutes to come to a settlement. They give
- 13 me every penny I asked for.
- 14 These people are good corporate citizens,
- 15 they contribute to the youth, they contribute to the
- 16 communities, and in Randolph County, they continue to
- 17 do so today.
- 18 Power needs of Missouri are discussed here.
- 19 In 2014, a polar vortex dropped into Missouri. The
- 20 temperatures dropped to a minus 12 or 14 degrees. Our
- 21 power grid was stretched on the limit. We were facing
- 22 brownouts and/or power failures due to overload. The
- 23 night it got so cold, we got not nearly 11 and a half
- 24 percent of our power from Missouri grid, from wind
- 25 energy from Oklahoma and Kansas.

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- I heard this project is about making money,
- 2 making a profit. When in this country has it become a
- 3 bad thing to make a profit? That's why we get up
- 4 every morning. When is it a bad thing to employ
- 5 people and pay a living wage? When did it become a
- 6 bad idea to pay local taxes?
- 7 I know there are people that don't seem to
- 8 put much impact on that, but I would challenge them to
- 9 go to their local communities and ask them to double
- 10 their school tax or to double their county tax.
- 11 When has it become a bad idea to transport
- 12 goods and services across county lines or state
- 13 lines -- pardon me -- and to benefit other Americans
- 14 to have cheaper power, more productive businesses and
- 15 a clean source of energy?
- 16 I would hope and certainly like to think
- 17 that the people of Kansas and Illinois would do to
- 18 same for the State of Missouri. And I appreciate your
- 19 time. Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- 21 THE WITNESS: I have a comment I would like
- 22 to put in the minutes.
- 23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: That's fine. That will be
- 24 Exhibit 60.
- 25 (Exhibit 60 was marked for identification.)

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1	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Next witness is Ed Pautz.	
2	(The witness was sworn.)	
3	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,	
4	and spell your last name.	
5	THE WITNESS: My name is Ed Pautz,	
6	P-A-U-T-Z.	
7	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?	
8	THE WITNESS: Here in Caldwell County, just	
9	northwest of town.	
10	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
11	THE WITNESS: I want to thank you for	
12	coming out and listening and gathering information	
13	from all of us. A little about me and my wife,	
14	Virginia, are owner/operators of a cattle operation	
15	here in Caldwell County. We live on Virginia's home	
16	place which is a third-generation century farm. We	
17	are very proud to be good stewards to that ground that	
18	we work.	
19	We are very opposed to the Grain Belt	
20	project and the use of eminent domain in any situation	
21	as this. We feel the correct decision was made in	
22	2015 regarding the Clean Line Grain Belt project.	
23	I do not understand why, but here we are	
24	again with the Clean Line Grain Belt project with the	
25	same plan, with no real change. I believe it was	

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- 1 stated that the burdens far outweigh the benefits.
- 2 Clean Line Grain Belt Express make
- 3 statements, most of which can't be followed by facts.
- 4 There are wants and needs. I feel this project of
- 5 Clean Line Grain Belt falls in the want category.
- 6 Clean Line Grain Belt wants us to believe there is a
- 7 need. Their intentions are to shoot straight through
- 8 Missouri, with little benefit to Missouri.
- 9 Jobs, taxes, low cost of power are their
- 10 touts. Jobs? We just had a major transmission line
- 11 come through Caldwell County. Look out west here.
- 12 The poles are standing above the tree lines. I don't
- 13 see anybody working anymore. It's completed. Jobs
- 14 are gone.
- 15 Taxes? From what I've heard from gathering
- 16 everything here, it sounds like their process has
- 17 placed a line where they'll pay the least amount of
- 18 taxes as they could.
- 19 Low cost power? So far I think we pay
- 20 extra for renewals on our electric bill, and I think a
- 21 lot of power companies now are complaining that -- or
- 22 not complaining, but stating that the power usage is
- down; therefore, they need more to charge for power.
- 24 So if usage is down, I don't see the need.
- 25 How would this affect the farmer, rancher?

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- 1 Many more ways than I can think of. First off, you
- 2 just end up with a new business partner that you
- 3 didn't want on your farm. Second, you just lost 10
- 4 percent, for me, 10 percent of my property if this
- 5 would be going through the home place. Number 3, if
- 6 this was approved and put on and an easement was
- 7 granted, you've lost any future purpose of that
- 8 property that you or your following family would like
- 9 to do with the ground.
- 10 Farming and ranching is and has become a
- 11 very precision business. Any obstacle takes away from
- 12 the profit.
- In closing, I again urge you deny Clean
- 14 Line Grain Belt this application on the points of
- 15 there's no real benefit to Missouri, there's no need
- 16 for Missouri, and the burdens it would place on the
- 17 affected Missouri businesses.
- 18 Again, I thank you for coming to Polo,
- 19 Missouri, so I could speak with you on this matter.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- 21 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 22 Virginia Pautz.
- 23 (The witness was sworn.)
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,
- 25 and spell your last name.

Page 82 My name is Virginia Pautz, P, as in Paul, 1 2 A-U-T, as in Tom, Z as in zebra. 3 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 4 THE WITNESS: I reside on a century farm in Caldwell County. 5 6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 7 THE WITNESS: Good afternoon, 8 Commissioners, and welcome. I am a farmer. I am not 9 a public speaker. My husband has stated our 10 opposition to the proposed Grain Belt transmission line. Our county has said no. I believe "no" means 11 12 "no." You have heard and will hear many testimonies 13 as to why we do not want it coming through our state, 14 and I agree fully. This transmission line is just another 15 16 example of the term "flyover state." We live on a 17 farm in a house that my grandfather and my grandmother 18 moved into in 1912. It is the house my dad was born 19 and died in. It is the house I was brought home to 20 when I was a baby. Being a third-generation farmer, I 21 want to make a brief statement about the family farm. 22 Yes, farming is a business. It has come a 23 long way since horse-drawn equipment, but farming is also a way of life, a good life, a hard life. It's 24 25 like no other. 365 days of a year, some days very

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- long, a different task every day. You become part of
- 2 it. It becomes part of you. So you take it personal
- 3 when a stranger comes to you and tells you how they're
- 4 going to go through your place, tear it up to help the
- 5 cities on the Eastern part of the United States. And,
- 6 oh, yes, they're going to pay you a fair market price
- 7 once for permanent structures and easements, egress
- 8 easements.
- 9 Money cannot replace a gutted family farm.
- 10 I would ask you to please, again, turn down Grain Belt
- 11 and remember this Paul Harvey statement, "And on the
- 12 8th day, God made a farmer." Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Michael Pollard.
- 14 (The witness was sworn.)
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,
- 16 and spell your last name.
- 17 THE WITNESS: My name is Mike Pollard,
- 18 P-O-L-L-A-R-D.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- 20 THE WITNESS: I live here in Caldwell
- 21 County.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- 23 THE WITNESS: Again, my name is Mike
- 24 Pollard, I live on the western side of Caldwell County
- 25 in Rockford Township. I live on a family farm that is

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- 1 three generations and, actually, five generations in
- 2 that part of the county.
- 3 The project comes through my farm. It's
- 4 the first farm that it comes through to the west, and
- 5 it comes through approximately a mile and
- 6 three-quarters through the middle of it. It comes
- 7 through about three to 400 feet from my farmstead, and
- 8 it is going to change the farm considerably.
- 9 I am opposed to this project. I am opposed
- 10 to it on the fact that it is infringing upon land
- 11 ownership rights and my rights. And I have
- 12 experienced three other projects in the last 10 years
- 13 that have come through, all of them with the power of
- 14 eminent domain or the power to condemn the land. It's
- 15 not a good experience.
- 16 The land is not for sale, but when these
- 17 people show up, it's going to be for sale, and they
- 18 tell you very quickly, "If you don't want to
- 19 negotiate, we're going to take you to court and we're
- 20 going to condemn it."
- I had negotiated through the last three,
- 22 and I'm not sure that I ever did feel like it was what
- 23 I wanted, but at some point in time you don't know how
- 24 far you want to take it to fight it because you know
- 25 what's -- eventually, you're told they're going to

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- 1 come through. So this time around, I appreciate the
- 2 opportunity to come before this Commission and express
- 3 my concerns because I did not have that opportunity
- 4 before. And it may not have changed the other
- 5 projects, but at least this time I do get to voice my
- 6 concern.
- 7 I have two recent pipelines come through,
- 8 and I've got a power line that is in the process of
- 9 being finished up now. It is true that they intend to
- 10 pay for all damages, and we're still trying to work
- 11 out some of those damages from some of these projects
- 12 that are eight to ten years old, so it's an ongoing
- 13 process. You never can anticipate all of the problems
- 14 that you are going to have with these projects, and
- 15 for that reason you don't always get everything in
- 16 writing that you think that you need, so it becomes a
- 17 little bit ambiguous and it becomes sometimes points
- 18 of consternation, trying to determine what's fair and
- 19 equitable after the fact. So there are a lot of
- 20 problems.
- The land ownership rights are important.
- 22 The land is not for sale, but yet if this goes
- 23 through, I'll be forced to negotiate again. I look at
- 24 the process and I think, yeah, profits are what
- 25 motivates this country, and I understand that. I

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- 1 understand jobs, but the landowner doesn't have the
- 2 right, if this is granted, to participate in this.
- 3 He's forced to. Every other entity has got the right
- 4 to take the job or not take the job, sell them the
- 5 goods and services or not. We don't have that option
- 6 if this is passed. So I want you to think about that
- 7 for a minute. It's probably not equitable on both
- 8 sides of the equation.
- 9 My time is running out so I'm going to
- 10 close. I do appreciate this opportunity to come
- 11 before you. I also want to thank the citizens of
- 12 Caldwell County and the neighboring counties that are
- 13 standing up for landowner rights. If this doesn't
- 14 come through you, if you're miles away from it, it
- 15 would be easy to not be concerned about it, but
- 16 there's been tremendous support. I appreciate that
- 17 from all my fellow citizens of this county and our
- 18 neighboring counties and, again, I thank you.
- 19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- 20 Doug Kirk.
- 21 (The witness was sworn.)
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,
- 23 and spell your last name.
- 24 THE WITNESS: Doug Kirk, K-I-R-K.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live --

Page 87 THE WITNESS: Columbia, Missouri. 1 2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 3 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I'm here to support the 4 Grain Belt project on both a personal and professional level. Start on the personal level. While I do live 5 6 in Columbia, Missouri, I was born and raised in 7 Richmond, Missouri, just down the road 20 miles, so I 8 grew up farming, small town, hunting, doing exactly 9 what the people in this room do, so I understand, 10 respect their concerns, and even have went through similar concerns. 11 12 Our family farm in the Millville area has a cell phone tower on it, so a number of years ago we 13 14 went through this exact same process, had the same concerns about safety and access and easement and so 15 16 on. Exact same concerns. And now, eight, ten years 17 later, honestly, it's a nonissue. Everything has been 18 worked out. We're happy to get the check, quite 19 frankly, on an annual basis. 20 So concerns, I understand, but I believe 21 they can be worked out. That's kind of my personal 22 story. 23 On a professional level, I'm here to talk about the economy and growth. And I represent Hubbell 24 25 Power Systems in Centralia, Missouri. Hubbell makes

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- 1 products that serve the electrical utility industry,
- 2 makes products that would be used on the Grain Belt
- 3 Express project.
- 4 Centralia, Missouri, if you're not
- 5 familiar, is about two hours east of here. It's a
- 6 small town, rural setting, again, not unlike this area
- 7 or Polo. We employ about 700 people in Centralia,
- 8 making products for the electrical utility industry.
- 9 This project would bring an additional 50 to 60 jobs
- 10 to Hubbell Power Systems as a whole, about 80 percent
- of those, maybe in the 40 range, would be right here
- 12 in Centralia, right here in Missouri. And those would
- 13 be good paying jobs, union jobs with benefits, so that
- 14 would be job growth right here in Missouri. And
- 15 that's the main reason we're supporting this is job
- 16 growth, grow the tax base, get the economy going.
- 17 So thank you for your time.
- 18 CHAIRMAN HALL: Thank you.
- 19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- 20 Cindy Fickess.
- 21 (The witness was sworn.)
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,
- 23 and spell your last name.
- THE WITNESS: Cindy Fickess, F-I-C-K-E-S-S.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live.

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1	THE WITNESS: Hamilton, Missouri.	
2	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please go ahead.	
3	THE WITNESS: I believe that the biggest	
4	part of this alternative energy push is from the	
5	globalist. I think it's a globalist initiative. I	
6	don't have anything against Clean Line energy, clean	
7	energy, that is. I just think that there could be a	
8	better way than taking our land through eminent	
9	domain. Globalists don't care about our Constitution	
10	and they don't care about our land ownership. In	
11	their treatise, they believe that people should not	
12	own land. And these transmission lines, they will not	
13	be underground. They will be massive. It will be a	
14	massive land grab and, like I said, I just think	
15	there's a better way to do this.	
16	Thank you.	
17	CHAIRMAN HALL: Thank you.	
18	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.	
19	Kathleen Stafford. Kathleen Stafford? I	
20	think I got that right.	
21	Mac Andrew.	
22	(The witness was sworn.)	
23	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,	
24	and spell your last name.	
25	THE WITNESS: Mac Andrew, A-N-D-R-E-W.	

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1	JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?	
2	THE WITNESS: Kansas City, Missouri.	
3	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
4	THE WITNESS: First of all, I want to thank	
5	you for the opportunity. You guys have been very	
6	patient. I sat back there for two and a half hours,	
7	and I've been scratching things to conserve your time	
8	because I didn't want to repeat what's already been	
9	repeated over and over.	
10	As I said, I'm Mac Andrew. I'm a former	
11	public works director for Jackson County. It's a very	
12	rural county near Kansas City, and then I was also	
13	public works director for Johnson County, a rural	
14	county on the Kansas side.	
15	First of all, these people in the back in	
16	the green, I have a great deal of respect for. I've	
17	been on the side of the table you've been on on public	
18	improvements, and yet these folks and I hope I can	
19	get applause on this. These folks are the backbone of	
20	the State of Missouri.	
21	There you go, you're a farmer.	
22	SPEAKER: That's right. I'm a farmer. I	
23	don't think we're on the same page.	
24	THE WITNESS: Nevertheless, I was born and	
25	raised just south of here in St. Joseph, Missouri. Do	

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- 1 you know where that is? That's also where they
- 2 started the Pony Express, and there's a big statue
- 3 downtown. But we don't deliver mail that way anymore
- 4 because they made progress. There's high technology.
- 5 We got e-mails. Most of you probably have your kids
- 6 that have cell phones or games that operate on that
- 7 kind of stuff so, nevertheless, progress is going to
- 8 continue.
- 9 While I was growing up in St. Joe, my aunt
- 10 and uncle owned a farm over in Wathena, Kansas, just
- 11 across the bridge from St. Joe, Missouri. And I
- 12 almost was going to take a sticker from Patty, a
- 13 little gal, but I thought I better not, even though
- 14 I've got some farm connections.
- 15 I worked over there several summers in the
- 16 '60s, when I was in high school. And let me tell you,
- 17 that's not the kind of work I wanted to do for my
- 18 future because we dug potatoes with pitchforks. We
- 19 took bales of hay like that, put it on a pickup truck
- 20 and hauled it to the barn.
- Nowadays, that's not the way it works.
- 22 They're very much more sophisticated. And even my
- aunt and uncle's farm, they don't care about the
- 24 property value because it stays in the family for
- 25 centuries and centuries, so it doesn't matter. It's

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- 1 their land. It's not going to change. They're not
- 2 making any more of it. So they have kept it in the
- 3 family, and now they have equipment they use to help
- 4 them with that. And that equipment probably costs
- 5 more than my house does.
- 6 When I was growing up in St. Joe, in high
- 7 school, my senior year, I was able to buy a clunker,
- 8 and so when I would get ready to go get gas when it
- 9 was 20 cents a gallon, I would wait for a gas war. I
- 10 don't know how many of you even know what that is, but
- If I could get it for 15 cents a gallon, and I did. And
- 12 that was just a good time, but now with oil prices and
- 13 energy going up, where I live in Kansas City, it's up
- 14 over three bucks at times, down to two bucks. Who
- 15 knows. No rhyme or reason.
- 16 But nevertheless, it's time to look for
- 17 renewable energy. I work for Shafer, Kline & Warren,
- 18 a consulting firm. We do work for cities in Missouri
- 19 and Kansas. I'm the city engineer for Eudora.
- 20 They're having terrific electrical problems in their
- 21 city.
- 22 This system, I think, done right, with this
- 23 process, hearing from these people -- and I've never
- 24 been to a hearing where people behind me like these
- 25 folks in Johnson County or Jackson County wanted that

Page 93 public improvement on their land. Put it over there. 2 I want that road. Put it over there. I want that 3 bridge. But once the process was over, they would 4 forgive us for the project and they would use that road and use that bridge. 5 6 So I'm here supporting clean energy. And I 7 see I have a minute 30 left. I want to make sure I 8 haven't left anything out after I scratched, but I 9 think we need to move forward with this kind of 10 project, and these people will keep their land. And I 11 was looking at some pictures over here. I don't see 12 how they can't continue to farm. Somebody already 13 reported on the benefits or the comparisons of livestock with both. 14 And with that, I thank you for your 15 16 patience, and I appreciate it. Thank you. 17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. 18 Derek Smith. 19 (The witness was sworn.) 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 21 and spell your last name. 22 THE WITNESS: Derek Smith, S-M-I-T-H. 23 JUDGE BUSHMAN: And where do you live? 24 THE WITNESS: Overland Park, Kansas. 25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: All right. Go ahead.

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Fax: 314.644.1334

THE WITNESS: I'm also a native of 1 2 Missouri. I was born in Whiteman Air Force Base 3 Hospital, lived in Excelsior Springs, eventually went 4 to Kansas City, went to Mizzou, graduated, now followed my wife to Overland Park. So I plan to make 5 it back sometime soon. 7 For the time being, there's a lot of things 8 that I was also scratching out, but some things I 9 definitely did want to cover as we move through 10 because I have a very strong personal interest in this and also professional. 11 12 I work for Wilson & Company. It's an 13 engineering and surveying mapping company located in 14 Kansas City, Missouri. I have a long history of providing transmission surveying mapping services in 15 16 this area, and I understand the process, and look 17 forward to working with everybody for this. 18 surveyors, we really respect and understand 19 landowners, and without that cooperation, nothing is going to work, so I understand the sensitivity of this 20 21 whole situation. 22 I do believe the Grain Belt Express is in 23 the public interest because it will transmit the clean renewable energy, and decrease energy costs and 24

dependence on nonrenewable sources while helping

25

Page 95 Missouri hit clean energy targets and generate new tax

- 2 dollars, among all the other documented inherent
- 3 benefits to generating and transmitting renewable
- 4 energy. I won't list a bunch. It's already been
- listed. So just moving on, just additionally just the 5
- generation of revenue for local businesses will
- 7 benefit all of Missouri. This isn't just localized.
- This is for a lot of different areas. 8
- 9 I have mapping staff in the Kansas City
- 10 office, local subcontractors along the route, the
- majority of which are Missouri residents who will 11
- 12 benefit from this, pay taxes. The economic stimulus
- 13 is there. As a geography major, personally, I
- understand how the environment renewable resources 14
- are, and trying to transmit them to areas that need 15
- 16 more of that.
- 17 As a Missouri native, I see this as an
- 18 opportunity to provide a necessary service that
- maximizes the benefits for the area. 19
- 20 And thank you for your consideration. Take
- 21 any questions.
- 22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- Junior Johnson. Junior Johnson? 23
- 24 SPEAKER: He left.
- 25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Rita Johnson?

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1	SPEAKER: She left, too.	
2	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Mike Kelly.	
3	(The witness was sworn.)	
4	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Could you please state	
5	your name, and spell your last name.	
6	THE WITNESS: Mike Kelly, K-E-L-L-Y.	
7	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live, sir?	
8	THE WITNESS: Braymer, Missouri.	
9	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
10	THE WITNESS: I want to thank the	
11	Commission for giving us the opportunity to speak and	
12	express our thoughts and feelings. I do oppose the	
13	Grain Belt Express. I don't want it running on my	
14	property. I do not want to look at it every day of my	
15	life. I'm in support of my neighbors and friends, and	
16	ask that the Commission will take in consideration	
17	what's happening to the lives of these good people.	
18	Thank you.	
19	CHAIRMAN HALL: Thank you, Mr. Kelly.	
20	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.	
21	Jennifer Sunley.	
22	(The witness was sworn.)	
23	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,	
24	and spell your last name.	
25	THE WITNESS: Jennifer Sunley, S-U-N-L-E-Y.	

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1	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?	
2	THE WITNESS: St. Louis.	
3	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
4	THE WITNESS: Good afternoon and thank you	
5	for the opportunity to speak. I'm a biologist at	
6	Hanson Professional Services. Hanson is an	
7	employee-owned engineering consulting firm with	
8	offices throughout the country, including Kansas City,	
9	St. Louis, Illinois and Indiana. As a biologist and a	
10	scientist, I'm here today to express support for the	
11	Grain Belt Express project due to the sustainable,	
12	low-cost energy it would transmit, and the many	
13	scientific and engineering jobs this project will	
14	bring to the area.	
15	My company provides engineering and	
16	environmental support services for transmission lines	
17	and substations in Illinois, Missouri, and throughout	
18	the Midwest, and projects like these have been	
19	essential to providing important work for our	
20	engineers, surveyors and environmental scientists.	
21	These projects are not only important to Hanson, as a	
22	business, but to me, as an employee owner, and as a	
23	Missouri resident. Thank you.	
24	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.	
25	Kent Templeton.	

Page 98 1 (The witness was sworn.) JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 2 and spell your last name. 3 4 THE WITNESS: Kent Templeton, T-E-M-P-L-E-T-O-N. 5 6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 7 THE WITNESS: I live in Caldwell County, Missouri. 8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 9 10 THE WITNESS: I would like to start by talking about the office here. How could I be against 11 12 renewable energy? I'm an investor in bio diesel plants, an investor in ethanol plants. Of course, I'm 13 14 not. Hoover Dam went in to light up Las Vegas. 15 16 Why didn't they run that through Chicago? You know, 17 it makes no sense whatsoever to take renewable energy 18 from western Kansas and take it clear to the East 19 Coast. 20 We've got windmill farms here in Missouri 21 up here. KCP&L put a line all the way across us, one 22 we couldn't stop, but they didn't take it east. They 23 took it to the closest place they could put it on the power grid. And that's what makes all the sense about 24 25 this is this energy should be taken to where it could

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- 1 be best utilized.
- 2 I would like to ask the gentleman back here
- 3 from Columbia, you know, he said that, you know, he
- 4 was involved and everybody got jobs. How many got a
- 5 job offer from KCP&L when they came here? Nobody.
- 6 Probably not one permanent job was generated from that
- 7 project, nor will there be any from this.
- 8 I farm in several different counties. You
- 9 know, I disagree with a lot of what I've heard. Me
- 10 and the folks in California are going to agree on very
- 11 little. I'm sure of that.
- 12 As far as the health benefits and stuff
- 13 like that, you know, they can toss them back and
- 14 forth. Not enough is going to be known from either
- 15 side how to stand on such an issue, but the fact
- 16 remains that to spend this much money and trample on
- 17 our private landowner rights to take this all the way
- 18 from Western Kansas -- take a ski trip to Kansas
- 19 sometime and see how far that is -- is just absolutely
- 20 ridiculous. I just can't see why we're all here and
- 21 to benefit a few jobs, they're just as temporary as
- 22 can be. There's no possible way that this is a
- 23 long-term thing.
- 24 Clean Line has to show the benefit and the
- 25 need, and they've shown neither. There's no need for

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- 1 this project and there's no benefit to this part of
- 2 Missouri or any other part of Missouri. Nobody from
- 3 this area or that is crossing in this area has said
- 4 that they would support it. Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- 6 Marwan Elkassamani.
- 7 (The witness was sworn.)
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,
- 9 and spell your last name.
- 10 A. Marwan Elkassamani. That's
- 11 E-L-K-A-S-S-A-M-A-N-I.
- 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?
- 13 THE WITNESS: I live in South Missouri,
- 14 Nixa.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- 16 THE WITNESS: I want to thank you guys for
- 17 this opportunity, and I'm here to speak in favor of
- 18 the Grain Belt Express and the jobs that it would
- 19 create for PAR Electric, that's PAR Electric/Quanta
- 20 Services.
- 21 Founded in 1954, PAR Electric is a Missouri
- 22 corporation. It's the largest outside construction
- 23 electrical in North America. It's based in Kansas
- 24 City, Missouri, and has permanent offices in St. Louis
- 25 and all over the United States, as well as temporary

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- 1 offices closer to job sites.
- 2 PAR electric is an affiliate of Quanta
- 3 Services. Grain Belt Express and Quanta Services have
- 4 signed an HVDC transmission development agreement.
- 5 This agreement commits each party to work towards a
- 6 complete engineering procurement and construction.
- 7 This agreement with the Missouri-based construction
- 8 company demonstrates how Clean Line and PAR would work
- 9 together to put Missourians to work to build new
- 10 electric infrastructure that would benefit Missouri
- 11 for decades to come. As we all know, we need that.
- 12 Projects like the Grain Belt Express are
- 13 needed to keep PAR and Missouri crews working at a
- 14 steady pace, and have other people come back from
- 15 outside of Missouri to come back and work closer to
- 16 home. More than 600 people are employed by PAR
- 17 Electric across Missouri. 400 employees are based in
- 18 Kansas City at PAR Electric headquarters. 200
- 19 employees are based in PAR Electric's office in south
- 20 St. Louis. There is at least about six or 800
- 21 employees that they are working away from home right
- 22 now in Indiana, Virginia, Ohio and other states.
- This project will offer even more
- 24 Missourians a pathway into the electric power industry
- 25 and the long-term employment that comes with it.

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- 1 Given the electric power upgrades needed in the U.S.,
- 2 there will be high demand for folks in the craft labor
- 3 side of the electric power industry for years to come.
- 4 This project is estimated to require 1500 jobs in
- 5 Missouri alone to complete, and that will provide
- 6 highly skilled and also provide starters, provide
- 7 people that come out and try to get in the program,
- 8 apprenticeship program, to become a lineman, to become
- 9 with a job they can depend on and earn a living.
- 10 With this important project we can keep
- 11 local employees busy at home, and create a new one,
- 12 highly skilled workers who will continue in the sector
- 13 long after this project is completed. As we all know,
- 14 some of the graduate of -- college graduates don't
- 15 find out now that they can go out and take a loan and
- 16 be in college for about four or five years and come
- 17 out and not even making the same amount as a
- 18 groundsman or as a journeyman lineman or as an
- 19 apprentice, so we do have -- we do see a turnaround of
- 20 people trying to get in the skilled work.
- 21 We engineer and build power lines across
- 22 the United States. We always worked against every
- 23 opposition or every problem, mitigate every problem.
- 24 We always have the greatest respect for landlords. We
- 25 always work closely with them, make sure that

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- 1 everything is back to normal, have all the
- 2 right-of-way access way ahead of time with a clean
- 3 communication and understanding.
- 4 As I said, we build power lines all over
- 5 United States, but the opportunity is very rare to
- 6 build a new long-haul transmission line for renewable
- 7 energy right in our backyard.
- 8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Sir, I'm afraid your time
- 9 has expired, but thank you for your testimony.
- 10 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Jay Eric Williams.
- 12 (The witness was sworn.)
- 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,
- 14 and spell your last name.
- 15 THE WITNESS: My name is Eric Williams,
- 16 W-I-L-I-A-M-S.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- 18 THE WITNESS: I live in rural Henry County.
- 19 It's close to Clinton, Missouri.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- 21 THE WITNESS: I'm here representing IBEW
- 22 Local 53 in Kansas City, Missouri.
- Just a quick bit of my personal background
- 24 only because I think it's pertinent to my testimony.
- 25 I grew up on a 400-acre grain and livestock farm in

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- 1 Henry County, Missouri, about 10 miles north of
- 2 Clinton. After high school, I attended University of
- 3 Missouri, Columbia, and graduated with a BS in
- 4 wildlife management. After graduation, I returned
- 5 home to the family farm where I farmed full time for
- 6 about 10 years.
- 7 In 1999, I started an apprenticeship to
- 8 become a journeyman lineman and became a journeyman
- 9 lineman in 2002. I worked in that field for 15 years
- 10 for contractors such as PAR Electric, Capital
- 11 Electric, building distribution and transmission lines
- 12 and maintaining those kinds of lines.
- 13 I started working at IBEW Local 53 in 2014,
- 14 and there I take care of nine contracts with very
- 15 varied interests. I represent people in power
- 16 generation, power distribution, a drinking water
- 17 treatment plant and distribution, broadcast engineers
- 18 at the Kansas City television stations and two RECs,
- 19 rural electric co-ops, one being in Trenton, Missouri,
- 20 the other down at Clinton and Butler, Missouri.
- 21 In my spare time, I currently still operate
- that 400-acre farm, about 200 acres of row crop,
- 23 pasture and woodland. Hopefully, eventually, I'm
- 24 going to find something I'm good at. Not yet, but I'm
- 25 working on it.

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- 1 Local 53 would obviously like to see this
- 2 project approved because we represent the workers who
- 3 would work on it. PAR Electric is a signatory
- 4 contractor to Local 53. As Marwan stated, there would
- 5 be about 1,500 people working on it. Roughly 500 of
- 6 those will be linemen, groundsmen, operators that we
- 7 represent, and it is a three-year project, so it does
- 8 have some significant length to it.
- 9 Most of those workers are going to be from
- 10 Missouri. They won't all be, but most of them will
- 11 be, many from North Missouri in this area. And we
- 12 would like to see it go through just because of the
- 13 longevity of the project.
- 14 Much has been made that it's temporary
- 15 work. Those workers will only work on it for three
- 16 years, but it's important to know that those workers
- 17 have careers that last 30 years, and those consist of
- working on a project like this for two or three years,
- 19 a similar project for a year. So those are long-term
- 20 careers that are supported by projects such as this.
- 21 The county that I live in does have a
- 22 coal-fired plant in it with six circuits of 161kv
- 23 coming out of it, so I am used to working in and
- 24 around power lines and farming operations. The cattle
- 25 there have no problems with it. They'll rub up

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- 1 against the poles that are in the pasture.
- 2 As far as the production of agriculture,
- 3 other than going around the structures, have not seen
- 4 an adverse effect here. Have not seen an adverse
- 5 effect towards the wildlife in the area. In fact, if
- 6 you go south of Clinton, Missouri, there is a 69kv
- 7 line that crosses Truman Lake, there's a bald eagle
- 8 nest on top of the structure, so those eagles don't
- 9 mind it at all.
- I don't have any transmission on my
- 11 property, but I have had farm lease ground that did in
- 12 the past, and didn't have any adverse effects other
- 13 than just going around them on your field passes.
- 14 This is a direct current line which does not create
- 15 magnetic conduction on other metal conductors, so it
- 16 is safer than an AC line.
- 17 And I would like to just wrap it up and say
- I hope you approve this project, and I would be happy
- 19 to answer any questions.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- 21 CHAIRMAN HALL: Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Michael Brooke.
- 23 (The witness was sworn.)
- 24 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name and
- 25 spell your last name.

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1	THE WITNESS: Michael Brooke, B-R-O-O-K-E.
2	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
3	THE WITNESS: Braymer, Missouri.
4	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
5	THE WITNESS: Thank you for the time. I'll
6	keep it short. I'm Michael Brooke. I own a farm,
7	Brooke Farms, and we also own a seed business called
8	Brooke Seed Services.
9	Our family farm has farmed for many years
10	where the transmission line will be going through.
11	We've probably got over a mile of line. We raise
12	crops, cattle, and we have a feed lot that will be
13	right next to it which currently has 144 head of
14	cattle in it which, to me, is a concern because we
15	will be working next to the line daily, every day.
16	You know, I also have health concerns of being around
17	it.
18	Another thing that we are looking into,
19	since we have a lot of customers that raise silage,
20	and we are looking into raising silage. We have
21	looked into some corn that's 10 foot plus tall, and
22	this variety that we're looking at has seen corn be as
23	tall as 21 foot. I don't know whether that's feasible
24	if it goes 21 foot, that is rare, but it is
25	10-foot-plus tall corn. I hear that that may be a

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- 1 problem farming underneath the power line at that
- 2 height.
- 3 Another concern I have is we've dealt with
- 4 a couple pipelines in the past. I wish I would have
- 5 brought some pictures of how bad our property was
- 6 destroyed and the property that we rented. It was
- 7 terrible. And the promises wasn't kept to take care
- 8 of it, and we have about 10 acres that pretty much
- 9 washed away and ruined all the terraces. And they
- 10 just kept putting it on each other to do it. And, you
- 11 know, we're about fed up with that kind of stuff. I
- 12 mean, it's just terrible.
- But as I sit here and I see people for and
- 14 against, I mean, everybody that's for the line has
- 15 something to gain, and everybody that is against it
- 16 has something to lose. And I don't know how a person
- 17 can really decide to take away from someone, and give
- 18 it to someone else. It's just terrible. And at this
- 19 time, I mean, I think it's just an example of big
- 20 money and big government taking advantage of the
- 21 economically challenged.
- Thank you for your time.
- COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- 25 R. David Bow or Bill.

Page 109 1 (The witness was sworn.) JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 2 3 and spell your last name. 4 THE WITNESS: My name is David Bell, 5 B-E-L-L. 6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 7 THE WITNESS: I live in rural South Alabama. 8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 9 10 THE WITNESS: I've traveled here today to speak on behalf of the 23 employees our company 11 employs that are Missouri residents, all of which 12 13 stand in support of this project. Collectively, we recognize the need to 14 expand the nation's electric grid to improve 15 16 reliability, and am pleased that this project will 17 provide low-cost renewable energy and will avoid doing 18 so on the backs of rate payers. 19 Despite the impact to a limited number of individual landowners, we recognize the Grain Belt 20 21 Express project is in the best interest of the overall 22 public. Our company has been involved in a number of 23 similar utility projects across this great country of ours, many here in Missouri, specifically involving 24 25 the acquisition of land rights.

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- In my 20 plus years in this business, I
- 2 have rarely, if ever, seen a utility establish a
- 3 landowner protocol that is as equitable to the
- 4 individual landowners as the one proposed by Clean
- 5 Line for use on the Grain Belt Express project.
- 6 I would like to specifically note three
- 7 items that's listed in the protocol that, to me,
- 8 demonstrate reasons in support for their use of
- 9 eminent domain if necessary.
- 10 Under Item Number 3 in "Compensation," they
- 11 point out that the per-acre estimate from fair market
- 12 value for similar land types will be multiplied by 10
- 13 percent to provide an overall payment of 110 percent.
- 14 We rarely, if ever, see a utility start off with an
- offer above fair market value of 100 percent.
- 16 Secondly, Clean Line is proposing a
- 17 structure payment. In all of our other previous
- 18 projects here in the State of Missouri, we have never
- 19 witnessed a utility provide a structure payment type
- 20 similar to the one proposed by Clean Line.
- 21 And, finally, again, in Missouri, we have
- 22 never seen a utility company offer the ability to go
- 23 to arbitration at the landowner's request.
- 24 Because we are confident that the
- 25 landowners will be treated equitably, that the project

Page 111 will improve the tax base in each of the affected 2 counties, that it will likely increase the use of 3 renewable energy, we ask that you grant approval of 4 the Grain Belt Express project. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Can you hold 5 6 on a minute. 7 CHAIRMAN HALL: What company do you work for? 8 THE WITNESS: I work for Volkert, 9 10 Incorporated. 11 CHAIRMAN HALL: I'm sorry. Say that again. 12 THE WITNESS: Volkert, V-O-L-K-E-R-T, 13 Incorporated. CHAIRMAN HALL: And you said that Volkert 14 employs 23 Missouri citizens? 15 16 THE WITNESS: We have 23 residents in the State of Missouri. 17 18 CHAIRMAN HALL: And where are they located? 19 THE WITNESS: Scattered across primarily 20 the eastern part of the state. 21 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Thank you. 22 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. 24 Daniel Davies. 25 (The witness was sworn.)

Page 112 1 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 2 and spell your last name. 3 THE WITNESS: Daniel Davies, D-A-V-I-E-S. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 4 THE WITNESS: Braymer, Missouri. 5 6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 7 THE WITNESS: First off, I thank you for 8 your time today. A few things I'm concerned about. 9 I'm concerned about the scarring of the landscape, the 10 unsightly features that will be somewhere in the 11 neighborhood of 400 yards from my house. I will be able to see these towers and lines every time I look 12 out my living room window. All of this for little or 13 14 no benefit of its electricity for all but a few in the eastern part of the state. 15 16 Number 2, I'm also concerned about 17 decreased property values in the area. Also concerned 18 about what will happen and who will pay for damages if 19 these lines would go down across existing power lines, 20 causing major damages and long-term power outages. 21 I'm concerned about setting a precedent for the next 22 company to come through wanting eminent domain just to 23 make a dollar, taking away our ground and way of life. 24 If this state would like to grant eminent 25 domain, I feel they need to find them a route using

Page 113 our state parks, refuges and any Army Corps land in 2 this route. That way they could take part of the burden along with the landowners opposed. Also, if 3 the East Coast is so desperate in need of wind energy, 4 let them put this on the East Coast where they will 5 6 get all the benefits. 7 Lastly, I'm really concerned about the 8 health issues, and I really cannot see how anyone 9 would allow or accept something with major health 10 concerns to go through that that could put in any way our children and our children's children in danger 11 12 just for a profit. 13 Thank you for your time. 14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. 15 John Gray. 16 (The witness was sworn.) 17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 18 and spell your last name. THE WITNESS: John Gray, G-R-A-Y. 19 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 21 THE WITNESS: Lee's Summit, Missouri. 22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 23 THE WITNESS: First of all, I would like to 24 say America is a great country. When do you get to

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have two sides of opposing argument sitting in a room,

25

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- 1 nobody fighting, and just hash it out to come to an
- 2 agreement. I love it. That's what America is all
- 3 about.
- 4 I'm here today to speak for the Grain Belt
- 5 project. To me, it represents clean, renewable
- 6 energy, potential profits, jobs and, most importantly
- 7 for me, a legacy for your children and grandchildren.
- 8 I understand that the good landowners here
- 9 are very apprehensive about giving up part of their
- 10 land for this project. Me being a U.S. Veteran, a
- 11 U.S. Air Force Veteran of the Gulf War, and being a
- 12 target of a terrorist attack in Khobar Towers in June
- of 1996, the importance of land and what people will
- 14 do for it is not lost on me. Trust me, I've seen it
- 15 in action.
- 16 I grew up in the State of Louisiana, dubbed
- 17 the sportsman paradise. I grew up on hunting,
- 18 fishing, farming, and moved to the great State of
- 19 Missouri -- I think that's how you say it because we
- 20 say Louisiana like that, New Orleans -- and we moved
- 21 up here, been here about six years. And I'm proud to
- 22 say that I served my country in the United States Air
- 23 Force for the rights for people to own their own land
- 24 and for the rights for them to assemble and for other
- 25 freedoms.

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- 1 One of the other freedoms I fought for was
- 2 independence, and one of those independence is energy
- 3 independence. That's very important to me. If you
- 4 watched any of the election coverage, no matter who
- 5 you supported, energy independence was at the
- 6 forefront of most of the debates.
- 7 I've had the privilege of traveling all
- 8 over this country and seeing many different
- 9 transmission and wind farm projects. One stood out to
- 10 me in particular in Bloomington, Illinois, that we
- 11 went to see. While visiting a customer, I was
- 12 afforded the opportunity to visit a farm that had both
- 13 wind turbines and transmission lines on it all over
- 14 the place. So I was amazed at how small the footprint
- 15 of these structures were on the site and how much low
- 16 impact they had on the land as far as aesthetically,
- 17 other than you have a big metal pole sticking up that
- 18 you have to look at.
- 19 So at this location I saw crops grow right
- 20 up against these structures. I saw cows graze right
- 21 up against these structures. It was fenced off. It
- 22 was very well kept up. So after a while the
- 23 landowner, he dove out to us and he said, "What are
- 24 you all doing?"
- 25 And we said, "We're looking at this wind

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- 1 turbine." And he invited us over and we sat down for
- 2 a cup of coffee and we were talking, and I asked him,
- 3 "How did you agree to all this? I mean, you're giving
- 4 up a lot of stuff. I mean, what's going on here?"
- 5 And he said at first he was very much
- 6 against it, but once he did a lot of research and took
- 7 a lot of time to do it, and negotiated the landowner
- 8 protections, he decided to try it. Tried it with one
- 9 turbine. He told me he tried them out, gave them an
- 10 opportunity, and they did what they said they were
- 11 going to do, so he invited them to do more.
- 12 And he said right now he can still farm his
- 13 land, his electricity is minimal, he said the biggest
- 14 thing he got was the kids moved back to town. They
- 15 didn't have to go to Chicago and work for all this
- 16 money. They could come back home. And he said the
- 17 biggest win for him was he got to see his grandkids
- 18 every day.
- 19 So I followed the progression of this Grain
- 20 Belt project proposal, and I've heard a lot of
- 21 concerns over the last few years over this. And, to
- 22 me, it comes down to three simple questions that I
- 23 believe you have to ask yourselves. Number 1, how
- 24 does it affect me? Number 2, what are the benefits
- 25 for me? And Number 3, what happens in the future?

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- 1 Well, on the first question, yeah, we could
- 2 all agree there's two facts you're not going to get
- 3 around. If you agree to this, you're going to have a
- 4 structure on your farm. You're going to have to look
- 5 at it. Those are facts you can't argue.
- 6 So let's look at the second question, the
- 7 benefit. Some of the benefits are compensation for
- 8 you for your land and the right to give up your land
- 9 for these structures. And this is outlined in the new
- 10 landowner protection and savings to customers that I'm
- 11 sure you've all seen. You're always looking at
- 12 potential of \$10 million annual savings for municipal
- 13 rate payers, and \$17 million in property tax revenue.
- 14 And that's a big deal for me because that money can be
- 15 used for schools, police departments, fire
- 16 departments, not to mention the potential of new jobs,
- 17 although they might be three to five years, in
- 18 construction and maintenance, and some support jobs as
- 19 well as supporting the construction crews with food,
- 20 lodging, parks and maintenance jobs to help maintain
- 21 the access roads, and I've seen this in other cities
- 22 around the country.
- This is all money that would be poured back
- 24 into your local economy, and more money in the economy
- 25 is always a good thing. I think we can all agree upon

Page 118 1 that. 2 The question three to me is the biggest 3 one, the legacy you're going to leave your children. I try to teach my children to leave the world a better 4 5 place. No matter what you do, make an easier path for 6 the next person. And I think that's what we're doing 7 for the next generation, leaving a better path for the 8 next person, then you've done your part. 9 Thank you very much for your time. God 10 bless the USA. Pray for our troops and our first 11 responders. 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Al Monteal. Al Monteal? 13 Diana Monteal? 14 15 Lisa Brooke. (The witness was sworn.) 16 17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 18 and spell your last name. 19 THE WITNESS: Lisa Brooke, B-R-O-O-K-E. 20 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live? 21 THE WITNESS: Braymer, Missouri. 22 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 23 THE WITNESS: As a retired Braymer C-4 bookkeeper at the school district, I was responsible 24 25 to record and receive all funding for the district.

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- 1 Our district included Ray County, Livingston County,
- 2 Caldwell County and Carroll County. I received all
- 3 the federal, state and local taxes.
- 4 When the lottery came through and the
- 5 pipelines came through, a lot of advertisement was out
- 6 there on how much money the school would get. I know
- 7 firsthand that what is advertised is not actually what
- 8 the school gets. I'm not saying that's not the case
- 9 here, but I've seen it in the past.
- 10 What I ask and what I've heard today is
- 11 that 90 percent of us that were for this going through
- 12 will go home tonight without another thought of
- 13 whether their property will be infringed on or whether
- 14 they have to look outside the window and see a high
- 15 line power line, while the rest of us that are against
- 16 this will go home -- or against the lines will go home
- 17 and wonder is that something that we're going to have
- 18 to see, deal with, for generations to come.
- 19 Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- 21 Eric Lovelace.
- 22 SPEAKER: He had to return to work.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Chris Zeiler.
- 24 (The witness was sworn.)
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Would you please state

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your name, and spell your last name. 2 THE WITNESS: Chris Zeiler, Z as in zebra, 3 E-I-L-E-R. 4 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live? THE WITNESS: Greenwood, Missouri. 5 6 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 7 THE WITNESS: As a life-long Missouri 8 resident, I am for the Grain Belt Express Clean Line 9 project. Growing up in Independence, Missouri, just an hour south here of Polo, I've seen how the aging 10 infrastructure affects homeowners and businesses. Old 11 wood distribution poles, overhead power lines, phone 12 lines, run down the front and rear of home properties 13 with the constant problem of power outages during 14 storms or just even strong winds. 15 16 This example of aging infrastructure isn't 17 just in Missouri. It's all over the U.S. With an 18 increase in home ownership, new businesses, electrical 19 devices, computers, cell phones and electrical cars 20 all needing electricity, we need to upgrade our aging 21 infrastructure. 22 This Grain Belt Express DC transmission 23 line project is a step forward to provide clean

renewable energy to Missouri residents, to upgrade our

aging infrastructure, and to reduce the carbon

24

25

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- 1 footprint on our planet, reducing the digging for
- 2 coal, fracking for natural gas, just Mother Nature's
- 3 always plentiful wind power.
- 4 As a Missouri resident, I would love to see
- 5 nothing more than to utilize the DC transmission line
- 6 where other states can take note and hopefully utilize
- 7 this in their state.
- 8 As a small business owner in Missouri, I'm
- 9 for this project. This DC transmission line will
- 10 provide the clean renewable energy to the Missouri
- 11 residents which will, in turn, lower electrical costs
- 12 for businesses and residents. We're all looking for
- 13 ways to save money with the cost of living increasing
- 14 all the time. Creating approximately 1500
- 15 construction jobs, truck drivers, construction
- 16 workers, equipment operators, welders, electricians,
- 17 et cetera, additional tax revenues to go towards
- 18 education, as well as local ambulance and fire
- 19 districts where budget cuts may have reduced these
- 20 much-needed services in the past.
- 21 Grain Belt Express is promising to utilize
- 22 Missouri-based labor in manufacturing. We are a
- 23 Missouri-based substation transmission line packager
- 24 that designs steel structures, procuring and
- 25 delivering high-voltage equipment at construction

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- 1 sites all over the U.S. We have no guarantees of
- 2 business here, but have the hopes to be given the
- 3 opportunity to work on this and other Clean Line
- 4 projects. We take pride in working on industrial
- 5 utility projects in our home and neighboring states.
- 6 I understand local land and homeowners are
- 7 trying to decide how this transmission line will
- 8 affect them. My previous work life, prior to owning
- 9 this business, was working in Kansas City for one of
- 10 the largest engineering consulting firms in the U.S.
- 11 We specialized in designing these same substations and
- 12 transmission lines for utilities all over the U.S.
- 13 One specific project I remember involved designing a
- 14 new substation next to a local farmer's property. We
- 15 had to design the transmission pole -- or design a
- 16 transmission pole connecting to this substation that
- 17 would be located in the middle of the landowner's crop
- 18 land. The specifications we received from the utility
- 19 for the design of this transmission pole were very
- 20 detailed. We had to minimize the footprint of the
- 21 structure, design the pole high enough for the farmer
- 22 to use his farm equipment safely on the property
- 23 without interference with the transmission line cables
- 24 running overhead.
- The reason I bring this up is all utilities

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- 1 want to work with landowners to come up with
- 2 agreements that they can all benefit from. Utilities
- 3 need to upgrade their systems to take on the constant
- 4 increase in power consumption, so it is in their best
- 5 interest to work with landowners to make them happy.
- 6 Clean Line is no different in regards to
- 7 this with the Grain Belt Express project. This
- 8 project is planning to distribute power from the wind
- 9 farms in Western Kansas, all the way to the border of
- 10 Indiana. Kansas, Illinois and Indiana have all
- 11 approved this project. Missouri is the last state to
- 12 approve this.
- I recently read a press release from
- 14 Governor Nixon dated June 29th of this year where he
- is in support of this Grain Belt Express project. It
- 16 appears that after much negotiation, Clean Line has
- 17 agreed to institute some of the strongest landowner
- 18 protections in our state history for a Missouri
- 19 infrastructure project.
- If they want this project to be approved
- 21 and constructed, Clean Line, they have to get the
- 22 landowner buy-in. If they cannot get the buy-in the
- 23 project either gets delayed, has to be rerouted, or
- 24 scrapped altogether.
- 25 JUDGE BUSHMANN: I'm afraid your time has

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1	expired. Thank you.	
2	THE WITNESS: Thank you.	
3	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Judy Holt.	
4	(The witness was sworn.)	
5	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,	
6	and spell your last name.	
7	THE WITNESS: Judith Holt, H-O-L-T.	
8	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?	
9	THE WITNESS: West of Polo.	
10	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
11	THE WITNESS: My husband and I have a farm	
12	which was our lifetime dream. We've lived there since	
13	1982. We raised two boys on it. It's a	
14	second-generation farm. Our oldest boy wants to come	
15	back and farm with us.	
16	This summer we had the other transmission	
17	line go south of our house so when I step out on the	
18	back porch, I can see eight of their poles. The Clean	
19	Line proposed line is going to go north of our	
20	property so, hence, when I look to the right, I'll be	
21	able to see their gigantic transmission lines. I am	
22	strongly opposed to the Clean Line line coming	
23	through. It's going to go on our neighbor's like I	
24	said, it's not going to be on our property.	
25	As a Public Service Commission, you guys	

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have a really big decision to make. I've heard cons 2 and I've heard pros, and I'm just glad I'm not sitting 3 in your seat to have to make that decision. 4 And, again, I strongly oppose the Grain 5 Belt coming through. 6 CHAIRMAN HALL: Thank you. 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. David Holt. David Holt? 8 9 (The witness was sworn.) 10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 11 and spell your last name. 12 THE WITNESS: David Holt, H-O-L-T. 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? THE WITNESS: West of Polo. 14 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 15 16 THE WITNESS: I've heard a lot of pros and 17 a lot of cons. Each side has valid points and, as you 18 can see, I'm talking off the cuff. I don't have a 19 prepared speech like most of them said. It's like my 20 wife has originally stated, that we've got power 21 lines -- or would have power lines on both sides. 22 And the supporters of this new power line, 23 they have come up with all kinds of good reasons why they should have this line in, and the opposition have 24 25 come up with a lot of reasons why they shouldn't. The

Page 126 supporters have been brought in here. The people 2 against it, we live here. We shouldn't have to be 3 forced to take this power line or this project. It's -- bottom line is the locals do not want it. We 4 do not need it, and there is no call for it. 5 6 Thank you very much. 7 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. 8 9 Robert Finkbiner. 10 (The witness was sworn.) 11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 12 and spell your last name. 13 THE WITNESS: My first name is Robert. My last name is Finkbiner, F-I-N-K-B-I-N-E-R. 14 15 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 16 THE WITNESS: Lee's Summit, Missouri. 17 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 18 THE WITNESS: I am 100 percent against this 19 power line going through. I should be in Carrollton 20 tonight, testifying, but I don't want to go there. I 21 want to be here because I don't recognize one face out 22 here, not one. They don't know me. Because in 23 Carrollton, the people would know me, and my neighbors might not like it, so because of that, I came here. 24 25 In other words, there is strife being

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- 1 created by this power line. People do not like this
- 2 power line, and some neighbors are for it, but most, a
- 3 high, high percentage, are way against it. And
- 4 because of that, there are problems that you will
- 5 never hear about, but they're out there.
- 6 The question I've got is my property is not
- 7 exactly on the line. It's about 300 yards from the
- 8 power line, from what I understand it's going to be,
- 9 so the Clean Line does not want -- they're not trying
- 10 to get my property through eminent domain. So between
- 11 the west side and the east side of the State of
- 12 Missouri, there are going to be hundreds and hundreds
- of people just like me, people that aren't going to
- 14 get a penny, yet we get to go out our front door and
- 15 look at this thing every day.
- 16 So my question to Clean Line is what are
- 17 you going to give me? I want something, and I want
- 18 everybody between Kansas and Illinois that's within
- 19 two miles of the property to get something. Why
- 20 shouldn't we? Why should only the people that are
- 21 having their property stolen from them, why are they
- 22 the only ones that should get money? I think the rest
- 23 of us should also. That's the major question I've
- 24 got.
- 25 I'll say one more time, please, I implore,

Page 128 vote against this. Thank you. 2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. 3 James Turner. 4 (The witness was sworn.) JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 5 6 and spell your last name. 7 THE WITNESS: James Turner, T-U-R-N-E-R. 8 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live? 9 THE WITNESS: I live in Kansas City, 10 Missouri. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 11 THE WITNESS: I've been a Missouri resident 12 13 all of my life except for years of service, active service, in the U.S. Navy. I grew up near Brookfield 14 on a farm, raised there, so I value the neighborliness 15 16 of robust rural communities. They need to have 17 ongoing mutual prosperity. 18 I support this Grain Belt Express project. 19 It will pay more than 7.2 million in taxes to support schools and public services in eight Missouri counties 20 21 in the first year of operation alone, and it will 22 continue to pay significant property taxes over the 23 life of the project. 24 As for what I get out of this, I have 25 expectations of better health for my grandson and his

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- 1 generation. With more wind energy delivered to our
- 2 Missouri utilities and with the encouragement for
- 3 still more development of wind energy in Missouri, we
- 4 should be doing as well as Iowa does, which already
- 5 has a lot more wind energy.
- 6 With all of that happening, our utilities
- 7 can reduce their burning of coal. Kansas City is a
- 8 leader in the number of emergency room visits and
- 9 hospitalizations for asthma. This puts my grandson --
- 10 makes him vulnerable to weakened lungs, and his
- 11 generation, and it makes them less productive.
- 12 Coal production also results in pollution
- 13 which spreads mercury over our waterways and makes it
- 14 problematic to consume fish.
- 15 The Grain Belt Express is needed. There is
- 16 an agreement with many Missouri utilities, municipal
- 17 utilities, to use this wind energy so hundreds of
- 18 thousands of Missourians will pay less for their
- 19 electricity.
- 20 Large energy users and large employers like
- 21 General Motors, Target, Unilever and others are
- 22 supporting this Grain Belt Express because they have
- 23 growing demands for renewable energy.
- 24 A couple of years ago I served on the
- 25 steering committee for the Missouri Comprehensive

Page 130 Energy Plan, and there I saw and heard much evidence 2 that we need to modernize the grid in Missouri. 3 The Grain Belt Express is a good investment 4 in new transmission infrastructure, so I support this 5 project. 6 CHAIRMAN HALL: Thank you. 7 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. Ronald Auld. 8 9 (The witness was sworn.) 10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 11 and spell your last name. 12 THE WITNESS: Ronald Auld, A-U-L-D. 13 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live? 14 THE WITNESS: I reside in rural Washington County, Illinois. 15 16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 17 THE WITNESS: First, hello. My name is 18 Ronald. I am a property owner in both Missouri and

- 19 Illinois. I would like to thank the Missouri Public
- 20 Service Commissioners for taking the time to hear the
- 21 public comments regarding the need for the Grain Belt
- 22 Express project, especially thank the commissioners
- 23 for allowing me to share my comments and thoughts
- 24 today.
- I'm here to speak on behalf of and in

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- 1 support of Clean Line Energy Partners' proposed
- 2 project which crosses through central Missouri. As a
- 3 landowner who is involved in a family farming
- 4 business, I understand the importance of private
- 5 property rights. I'm also a certified general real
- 6 estate appraiser, licensed in both Missouri and in
- 7 Illinois. My appraisal practice extensively covers
- 8 rural areas, appraising both large and small farmland
- 9 tracts.
- 10 As a part of a family farming business, I
- 11 have farmed around transmission structures, around
- 12 brushy creeks, fenced roads and farmsteads, and all
- 13 are inconveniences, but none preclude one's ability to
- 14 continue to cultivate the farmland. I am well aware
- 15 of the stories shared by my grandfather concerning the
- 16 Rural Electric Administration and bringing of power to
- 17 the country. This infrastructure was vital to the
- 18 development of agriculture in rural America and
- 19 continues today.
- The continued demand for electric power
- 21 throughout America is part of the driving force behind
- 22 projects like Grain Belt Express. As a farmer and
- 23 landowner, I understand the American farmer and rural
- 24 landowners bear the larger impact of projects of this
- 25 type. We have, and most likely always will, but we

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- 1 are the group of Americans that has made America
- 2 strong and will continue to be the driving force for
- 3 rural economies.
- 4 And along that line, one of the things I
- 5 would note is the fact that this project brings with
- 6 it a mitigation agreement and also landowner protocol
- 7 that's very beneficial to the property owners.
- 8 We've also talked about the aesthetic
- 9 aspect of seeing transmission lines. When I step out
- of my front door in the morning, I see a transmission
- 11 line probably 300 yards away from my house. Sometimes
- 12 it's almost invisible, but it is there, and I see it,
- 13 but, more importantly, I also see distribution lines
- 14 that are on my property edge, and those are the lines
- 15 that bring the power to my house. And if it weren't
- 16 for that transmission line servicing the substations
- 17 along the way, I may not be able to flip that switch
- 18 and turn my lights on on a daily basis.
- 19 I understand the consideration before the
- 20 commission, but I implore you to support the expansion
- 21 of renewable energy and its delivery across the
- 22 electric grid. As a nation, demand for renewable
- 23 energy is desired and, in many cases, mandated by
- 24 statute. This safe and renewable energy source cannot
- 25 be fully utilized without the ability to transmit this

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energy across state lines.

- 2 Again, I thank you for your time and
- 3 consideration for the need for this project. In
- 4 closing, I request for support for the Clean Line
- 5 Grain Belt Express project. Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- 7 Loren Sprouse.
- 8 (The witness was sworn.)
- 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,
- 10 and spell your last name.
- 11 THE WITNESS: My name is Loren Sprouse,
- 12 S-P-R-O-U-S-E.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- 14 THE WITNESS: I live in Leawood, Kansas,
- and I also have a home in Braymer, Missouri.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- 17 THE WITNESS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners,
- 18 and members of the staff, thank you for taking the
- 19 time to hear the concerns of the real stakeholders of
- 20 this project.
- 21 My brothers and I own a century farm in
- 22 Caldwell County in the path of the proposed power
- 23 line. In my previous work, I headed up engineering
- 24 construction at two different national telecom
- 25 companies. A master's degree in EE.

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- 1 With my background, I've tried to educate
- 2 landowners on the issues around this power line in my
- 3 role as the vice president of the Missouri Landowners
- 4 Alliance. I realized recently that we've been looking
- 5 at this whole situation wrong.
- 6 First, this proposal needs to be denied not
- 7 because it's a private, for-profit company, but
- 8 because it's a deregulated company, wanting the power
- 9 of eminent domain like a regulated utility so they can
- 10 make huge profits outside of the State of Missouri.
- 11 They are throwing a small bone to the local
- 12 municipal utilities for their support with the
- 13 possibility that they can buy cheap power which, by
- 14 the way, is likely to be just four to eight percent of
- 15 the total capacity of this line.
- 16 This project should be denied because they
- 17 should be committed to deliver 50 percent or more of
- 18 their power under to Missouri under hard contracts
- 19 with penalties if they fail to deliver before they got
- 20 the right of eminent domain.
- 21 You should also deny this project because
- 22 Clean Line really hasn't attempted to privately obtain
- 23 these easements. They are offering ag appraised
- 24 prices for the land. The reason we've been looking at
- 25 this all wrong is because farmland around cities and

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- 1 major highways converts to commercial property as
- 2 opportunities arise. This 5,000-acre easement across
- 3 the state isn't ag property anymore. It's probably
- 4 the most valuable single piece of commercial real
- 5 estate in the State of Missouri. I've calculated the
- 6 cost of this easement across the state. It came up
- 7 with their cost to be around \$28 million. This is
- 8 only 5 percent of the \$525 million that they plan
- 9 to -- project to spend in the state for the most
- 10 valuable piece of commercial real estate in the State
- 11 of Missouri. That's just wrong.
- 12 Why is it so valuable? Because based on
- 13 their capacity and consumptions on pricing, I estimate
- 14 the Grain Belt Express, at full capacity, could
- 15 generate 3 to \$5 billion in gross wholesale revenues
- 16 per year. Even at 80 percent utilization, the gross
- 17 revenues could cover the entire easement cost in three
- 18 to four days. Again, that's just wrong.
- 19 Another reason you need to deny this
- 20 proposal is the negative impact on landowners. I did
- 21 some research, and in the 27 miles across Caldwell
- 22 County to Route D at the edge of Carroll County, there
- 23 are 90 homes within a half mile of the proposed line,
- 24 52 homes a thousand feet or less, and 19 unfortunate
- 25 homeowners that would be 500 feet or less from the

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- 1 line.
- 2 Using figures from the Missouri Extension
- 3 and other sources, I extrapolated these figures for
- 4 the entire state, and concluded that the Missouri
- 5 landowners could experience an immediate \$14 million
- 6 loss in home values due to this power line. None of
- 7 these homeowners will receive any compensation for
- 8 this loss under the current proposal. Landowners
- 9 would also experience future opportunity loss for home
- 10 lots which could easily amount to 8 to \$10 million.
- 11 Finally, there's evidence in some recent
- 12 sales that the presence of this line on agricultural
- 13 land affects its value. If we assume just a 10
- 14 percent on the land a quarter mile on each side of the
- 15 line, that would amount to over \$26 million.
- 16 Therefore, Missouri landowners and homeowners would
- 17 experience \$50 million in current and future asset
- 18 devaluation if this line gets built.
- 19 We could argue about my analysis, but I
- 20 would bet my figures are more close to reality than
- 21 Clean Line's assessment of no impact. Frankly, that's
- 22 actually insulting. Now, that 50 million may not
- 23 sound like much to venture capitalists, but to
- 24 hundreds of landowners or homeowners affected, the
- loss of equity in their homes could be catastrophic.

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- 1 That's why you need to deny this application.
- 2 You also need to deny this application
- 3 until Clean Line opens their books to their business
- 4 case like they do their investors so we can see what's
- 5 reasonable for them to pay for private easements based
- 6 on the profits they expect to make.
- 7 You also need to deny this certificate
- 8 until municipal utilities can prove they have
- 9 exhausted their options to obtain cheaper power before
- 10 grabbing the first silver bullet that comes along that
- 11 has significant negative consequences.
- 12 Finally, you need to deny this project
- 13 because of the unnecessary corrosion risk in building
- 14 this line next to the largest pipeline corridor in
- 15 North America, creating future leaks and possible
- 16 explosions.
- 17 We don't need another Platte City fire just
- 18 because they want inexpensive easements. Frankly,
- 19 back to my experience, I'm surprised that FERC and
- 20 Homeland Security would support this decision to have
- 21 so many eggs in one basket.
- In summary, there are lots of plans that
- 23 can be developed to improve energy sources in our
- 24 state. This is just a bad plan that we need to walk
- 25 away from and let our state -- and keep our state from

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- 1 being the doormat of private investors wanting to make
- 2 a quick buck on the back of Missouri citizens.
- 3 Thank you. I've given her my notes, and I
- 4 plan to submit later tables to confirm my figures on
- 5 my studies.
- 6 CHAIRMAN HALL: Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Mark Kipping.
- 8 (The witness was sworn.)
- 9 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,
- 10 and spell your last name.
- 11 THE WITNESS: Mark Kipping, K-I-P-P-I-N-G.
- 12 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live?
- 13 THE WITNESS: I live a few miles left and a
- 14 little bit north of Polo.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- 16 THE WITNESS: Tough act to follow. Mine
- isn't going to be as entertaining.
- 18 A few years ago I was approached by a cell
- 19 phone company. They wanted to put a cell phone tower
- 20 on my property. Would have been nice to have the
- 21 extra money. Turned them down. About a year later,
- 22 they asked again. We turned them down again. We like
- 23 the aesthetics of the house we built about eight years
- 24 ago.
- Neighboring landowner was contacted. He

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- 1 said yes. I now have a cell phone tower a hundred
- 2 feet south of my property line. I still get to see
- 3 it. I don't get any money for it. Hindsight, maybe I
- 4 should have taken it. At least with that, you know,
- 5 the cell phone coverage around here isn't best. It
- 6 would be beneficial to have it. As of this date, they
- 7 still haven't put an antenna up on the tower for cell
- 8 phones. That's disappointing.
- 9 When KCP&L came in and put in their power
- 10 line, it had the possibility of going on our property.
- 11 The final choice was an eighth mile south of our
- 12 property. I understand that was for a public utility.
- 13 I didn't like it. Eminent domain, I accepted it, I
- 14 gotta look at it every day. I can explain to my
- 15 children, this is why it is. It's for the greater
- 16 public good.
- 17 With this line it's going to be north of
- 18 me. We'll get to see it again. I can't explain to my
- 19 children that eminent domain was properly used. It's
- 20 a private company. It should not be used. That's my
- 21 argument.
- Thank you for your time.
- COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you.
- 24 CHAIRMAN HALL: Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.

		Page 140
1	Jennifer Kisser.	
2	(The witness was sworn.)	
3	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,	
4	and spell your last name.	
5	THE WITNESS: Jennifer Kisser, K-I-S-S-E-R.	
6	JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live?	
7	THE WITNESS: I live in Kingston.	
8	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.	
9	THE WITNESS: Thank you for coming through	
10	our communities again. I don't believe that you have	
11	to do this as part of the as part of cases, but you	
12	have, and it shows that you are sincerely interested	
13	in the community, in us, in making your evaluations.	
14	That's very important.	
15	We're going on three and a half years now	
16	since this started. It affects us each and every day.	
17	We would like to have our lives back, but we won't	
18	stop fighting for what's right and most important to	
19	us.	
20	I grew up on a dairy farm. It was a	
21	wonderful childhood. We worked hard, earned	
22	everything that we had, treated others fairly, and	
23	became adults with integrity, accountability and deep	
24	family values. I spent nine or 10 years in the city	
25	going to college and starting my career. I had to get	

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- 1 back into the country after those 10 years so I bought
- 2 my own farm. I moved to this wonderful community 14
- 3 years ago, and have no desire to leave. I drive an
- 4 hour each way, every day. I could easily live in the
- 5 city, but I don't want to. I want my country space,
- 6 my country neighbors, and my country friends in green.
- 7 Country roots run deep. We've heard a lot
- 8 about claims of jobs from people out of town in
- 9 support of the project and, quite honestly, sometimes
- 10 I've wondered if they're in the right place. We've
- 11 heard dozens of different company names, project
- 12 names, and more than a few wild and fantastic claims
- 13 of truth. And if we're up here speaking the truth,
- 14 some of these folks can't possibly attest to that
- 15 because it is not proven.
- 16 It's a poorly planned, weakly concepted
- 17 business plan with no substance. There are no wind
- 18 farms. There are no customers. All you have is a
- 19 speculative company that calls themselves a public
- 20 utility. That doesn't make it so.
- 21 We've heard about how good it would be for
- 22 local businesses. If local businesses had to give up
- 23 a part of their business for this, if they had to give
- 24 someone the hotel room after they stayed there, if
- 25 they had to give them part of the parking lot because

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- they came into the convenience store, I suspect you
- 2 would have all of those folks here as well raising
- 3 Cain, but that's what they want the landowners to do,
- 4 to give them a part of what we have and what we need.
- 5 It's absolutely foolish to expect anyone to
- 6 believe that this would be cheap electricity. The
- 7 world doesn't work that way for anything. Any source
- 8 of energy will be priced at what the market will bear.
- 9 No one sells cheap if the market pays more. That is
- 10 basic business sense. Clean Line is not a
- 11 not-for-profit venture.
- 12 You heard from my mother yesterday. We are
- 13 desperately trying to relocate her to a safe place
- 14 near us in Caldwell County. In the process of this,
- in speaking with realtors, they've told us, "No one
- 16 calls me asking for property near wind turbines or the
- 17 Midwest Transmission Line. They don't. Nobody is
- 18 going to go looking. They're going to go running."
- 19 Missouri is doing more than its part on the
- 20 renewable energy front. We don't need Clean Line to
- 21 drop in in Missouri, as they say they would do, which
- 22 is just a ploy to show that they would do something
- 23 for Missouri. Would they? Who knows. But we still
- 24 don't need it and we still don't want it.
- Nothing substantial has changed since the

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- 1 first go around. You were very thorough, thoughtful
- 2 and fair in that decision, as well as upholding the
- 3 law in the second ruling when Clean Line was trying to
- 4 bully their way through on a fast track.
- 5 Please use your good judgment again, and
- 6 deny their application, as this is no more necessary
- 7 or convenient to the State of Missouri than it was
- 8 three and a half years ago. Thank you.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.
- 10 Kevin Kitzmiller. Kevin Kitzmiller?
- Joe Kalin.
- 12 (The witness was sworn.)
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name,
- 14 and spell your last name.
- 15 THE WITNESS: My name is Joe Kalin,
- 16 K-A-L-I-N.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live, sir?
- 18 THE WITNESS: Buchanan County.
- JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead.
- THE WITNESS: I want to thank you for
- 21 coming and the opportunity to speak to you,
- 22 personally, and for the welfare of the people around
- 23 me. My opportunity is a little different than other
- 24 people. I'm against the line, too, and it's because
- 25 of the position that I have come from my parents

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- 1 and my grandparents.
- 2 My grandparents came from the old country
- 3 to this country for an opportunity to do better. They
- 4 had 12 children, and they bought a 40-acre farm and
- 5 began to have a truck gardening operation, and they
- 6 continued that.
- 7 When my father and mother were married,
- 8 they were able to acquire an 80-acre farm in Buchanan
- 9 County at Faucett, Missouri. With the passing of my
- 10 parents, my brothers and my sister were left in trust
- 11 for this farm, and there were six of us, and in the
- 12 meantime, different ones of the family decided to
- 13 break off, and some of them have kept onto the farm.
- 14 And so my wife and I have had the opportunity to buy
- 15 what I call the home place.
- 16 We own the home place, and it is our own
- 17 farm in Buchanan County. We also own another farm in
- 18 Buchanan County that we live on. We bought this farm
- 19 before my parents passed away. I'm a third
- 20 generation. Our sons and our daughter are fourth
- 21 generations, our grandchildren, which is the fifth
- 22 generation, is our son, and we have two
- 23 granddaughters, and they are involved in some of the
- 24 farming businesses. And through this trust set up
- 25 for -- we have a trust set up for him and these

Page 145 grandsons that they will continue the operation of the 2 home place and our place living now. We feel that it is our duty and our 3 4 stewardship to establish the next generation of farm people. In order to get them involved in farming, one 5 6 has to produce something for him and to be able to 7 give him something to work for. We are not willing to sell our farmland to 8 9 anyone. It has given us a great faith and an 10 understanding that we will look out for the next generation. We love the land and all of the gifts 11 12 that it brings to us. 13 I wish to thank you once again for the 14 opportunity. I have written the Public Service Commission also in letters, and I appreciate their 15 16 response to me. Thank you for your patience and for your trust in the farm people. Thank you. 17 18 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you. 19 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you. 20 Shirley Hook. Shirley Hook? 21 Mark Anderson. 22 (The witness was sworn.) 23 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, and spell your last name. 24

Fax: 314.644.1334

THE WITNESS: Mark Anderson,

25

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Fax: 314.644.1334

A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N. 2 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Where do you live? 3 THE WITNESS: Polo. Polo, out in the 4 country. JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 5 6 THE WITNESS: You know, it wasn't till 1913 7 that we actually had taxes. Did you know that? Up 8 until that point, we didn't even have taxes. Since 9 then the government has been regulating and 10 overregulating everything. I'm not going to go down that road today, but we don't want to do that anymore. 11 12 I am for free enterprise, I really am, but the job of the government is to protect the rights --13 14 protect our rights. So if free enterprise steps on other people's rights, then they've gone too far. And 15 16 that's what's happening here is that we are going to 17 have our rights stepped on, we're going to have our 18 land stolen from us, and our views stolen from us, and 19 it's not right. So I'm against this. 20 You know the time of this hearing is when 21 everyone is working. And I'm losing a day's salary, 22 and all my employees are not working today because I'm 23 here. And I would be willing to guess that this whole building would be full, plus 20 other buildings, if 24

this were after hours. And so -- and I would be

25

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- 1 willing to bet that 90 percent of those people would
- 2 be against this.
- Most of the people who are for this, in my
- 4 opinion, don't live here, and they have -- they're
- 5 going to make some money from this, plain and simple.
- 6 Some are probably paid to be here today. I'm not paid
- 7 to be here today. I'm losing money. And, in fact, I
- 8 have a piece of property hooked to my property, and
- 9 this tower is not going to land on my property, but
- 10 I'm a home builder, and reality is setting in right
- 11 now, and this thing hasn't even happened. And what
- 12 I'm talking about is I have a client who will not
- 13 build a home and buy that piece of property until this
- 14 thing is over because they will be able to see this
- 15 thing. So you're already hurting the economy, as far
- 16 as I'm concerned.
- 17 And I guarantee that there is going to be a
- 18 ripple effect all over this county. And wherever you
- 19 put this, it's going to hurt the economy. Yeah, there
- 20 might be some jobs for, like they said, three years,
- 21 then that's it.
- 22 And, you know, besides the fact that it's
- 23 going to lower my property value, it's ugly, and I
- 24 don't want it. Our rights are being violated is
- 25 probably the biggest reason why I'm here. Even if

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- 1 this was in the next state over, I don't want to start
- 2 setting a precedent that gives the government rights
- 3 to give corporations to do whatever they want,
- 4 whenever they want. And I think that's what we're
- 5 headed toward. And, you know, at that point, then do
- 6 we start saying that we live in the good old USSA
- 7 because it's a little more like Russia?
- 8 I just don't want to start losing our
- 9 rights here, and I think that's the biggest issue
- 10 here. I don't think it's about my losing a little
- 11 business right now.
- 12 I think if we are going to set a precedent,
- 13 I think in some criminal cases, murders, if I'm not
- 14 mistaken, there's something called double jeopardy
- 15 where you can't keep trying something over and over
- 16 again. Why isn't that here? This has already been
- 17 tried. What are we doing here? This was already
- 18 thrown out because good people already decided this
- 19 was a bad idea. So what are we doing here wasting our
- 20 time? I just don't understand that.
- 21 You know, eventually, if this goes through,
- then maybe we'll take our cattle and bring them over
- 23 to your backyard and just bring them through your
- 24 backyard because it's going to make somebody a little
- 25 bit of money.

Page 149 There could be a million ways to slice this 1 2 once people start losing their rights where you're 3 going to have to change your life based on what others 4 want to do. I think it's really sad when the desires of a few affect the needs of the many, which is what's 5 6 happening right here. There are a few people who are 7 going to make some money, and a lot of people are 8 going to be hurt from it. Thank you. 9 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you. 10 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Andrea Rice. (The witness was sworn.) 11 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Please state your name, 12 13 and spell your last name. 14 THE WITNESS: My name is Andrea Rice, 15 R-I-C-E. 16 JUDGE BUSHMANN: And where do you live? 17 THE WITNESS: Salisbury. 18 JUDGE BUSHMANN: Go ahead. 19 THE WITNESS: I'm coming to you today as a land-owning member of the Missouri Farm Bureau, as a 20 21 school board member and mother, and also as a real 22 estate broker salesperson. 23 It hasn't been easy for me to be supportive of this project. It's been hard to speak out. We 24 25 have neighbors who are adamantly against this project

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- 1 and who have become very upset and verbally demeaning,
- 2 even to the point where our daughters have been upset
- 3 and concerned for our safety.
- 4 I'm going to tell you why I support this
- 5 project based on each of the roles I mentioned. It is
- 6 my hope to see the Grain Belt Express Clean Line
- 7 approved by Public Service Commission.
- 8 My father is the caretaker of his elder
- 9 uncle and my husband is the tenant of his property.
- 10 He is a retired farmer and landowner. We have taken
- 11 great care and had a great deal of concern with Clean
- 12 Line as it is crossing three of the properties that he
- 13 owns and that we rent. In our experience with Clean
- 14 Line, we have been very surprised and pleased to know
- 15 that they have been respectful to landowners and they
- 16 have even added two pieces to the 2016 application
- 17 with the Missouri Landowner Protocol and the Missouri
- 18 Agricultural Impact Mitigation Tool.
- 19 These tools outline many of the concerns
- 20 that landowners have expressed and that they verbally
- 21 discussed, but now they are in writing. The landowner
- 22 protections that were discussed -- were discussed with
- and approved by Governor Nixon. These protections
- 24 include escalating annual payments, pricing easements
- 25 based off of the higher of two fair market value

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- 1 assessments, working with landowners to avoid or
- 2 minimize impact of drainage tile and irrigation
- 3 systems, and creating the role of an agricultural
- 4 inspector.
- 5 Having dealt with infrastructure before,
- 6 the role of agriculture inspector is very important to
- 7 us, and it ensures that Clean Line is following all of
- 8 the recommendations and regulations for landowners,
- 9 and this person will be a direct line of communication
- 10 for landowners to address their concerns during the
- 11 construction of the project.
- 12 Another project outlined and has been
- 13 discussed is binding arbitration for landowners to
- 14 ensure that they are receiving a fair price for their
- 15 easement. They have also committed to a
- 16 decommissioning fund that is set up in the rare
- 17 instance that the transmission line is no longer
- 18 deemed as useful. In this progressive plan, there
- 19 will be funds available to dismantle, demolish and
- 20 remove all equipment and structure. This is
- 21 reassuring to know for landowners in the instance that
- 22 the project is not continuing operation, that their
- 23 land will be taken care of.
- In addition to my role as landowner and
- 25 farmer's wife, I serve on the board of education for

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- 1 the Salisbury School District. We are blessed to have
- 2 multiple infrastructure projects in our county, and it
- 3 directly is beneficial to our students of our school
- 4 district, as well as the taxpayers of our county.
- 5 During the last school year our district
- 6 received 78 percent of its funding from local fund
- 7 sources. This is higher than the state average.
- 8 Because of this higher than average dependency on
- 9 local resources, we are fortunate to have tax income
- 10 coming from railroads and utility companies to help
- 11 shoulder the burden from landowners. We actually have
- 12 nine of our top ten taxpayers in Chariton County being
- 13 railroads and utilities.
- 14 Rural Missouri is dramatically changing,
- 15 and infrastructure projects greatly help out not only
- 16 our school districts, but also our municipal services.
- 17 According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of
- 18 Chariton County has decreased by 27 percent from 1980
- 19 to 2010. And this is not uncommon for Northern
- 20 Missouri.
- 21 The stability of rural Missouri is
- 22 dependent upon projects such as the Grain Belt Express
- 23 Clean Line to provide citizens' emergency needs and
- 24 education for your children.
- 25 Finally, today, I come to you as a real

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- 1 estate broker salesperson. I have done research
- 2 through the past sales files, and I have found
- 3 specific instances of two properties specifically that
- 4 were in close proximity, and sold on auction. One of
- 5 the properties had a recently placed transmission
- 6 line, and both were comparable soil types and uses.
- 7 Both properties sold comparably, and there was no
- 8 reflection on the value due to the transmission line.
- 9 There are many facts, figures, emotions in
- 10 the discussion of Grain Belt Express today, and I come
- 11 to you as a concerned citizen of rural Missouri. I
- 12 realize if our way of life is to continue, our methods
- 13 have to change. This project is beneficial to
- 14 landowners, and Clean Line has put in protocols to be
- 15 sure that they are respected and valued. Rural
- 16 communities will benefit from revenue to local schools
- 17 and municipalities, continuing quality education and
- 18 needed emergency services.
- 19 Finally, as a real estate broker, I have
- 20 done research to ensure that any change in property
- 21 value is not due to the transmission line, and if it
- 22 is, it will not be long lasting. The project is
- 23 crucial to the continued existence of rural
- 24 communities, and I am requesting your approval of the
- 25 Grain Belt Express Clean Line. Thank you.

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1	JUDGE BUSHMANN: Thank you.	
2	We're not going to have time to take any	
3	more witnesses here today. Those witnesses who signed	
4	up, there's, like, five of them, if you did come to	
5	Carroll County tonight, then you would be able to go	
6	to the top of the list. There's other things you can	
7	do also. If you want to provide testimony, you can	
8	send it in, in writing, to the commission. And	
9	there's information at the staff table how to do that.	
10	You can call in by telephone and provide your public	
11	comment that way. Those are options that you have for	
12	those few people that we didn't get to. I apologize	
13	that we weren't able to get to everybody, but we have	
14	to travel to another county.	
15	Participating witnesses, I would like to	
16	thank you for hanging around and testifying tonight.	
17	So the hearing is now adjourned. We're off	
18	the record.	
19	(Adjournment at 3:56 p.m.)	
20	-000-	
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21		
22	(Judge Bushmann ret	ained exhibits and advised not to
23	describe them in th	e index)
24		
25		

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1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER	
2		
3		
4	I, Beth A. Kaltenberger, a Certified Court	
5	Reporter for the state of Missouri, Certified	
6	Shorthand Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter	
7	and Certified Realtime Reporter, do hereby certify	
8	that the Public Service Hearing aforementioned was	
9	held on the time and in the place previously	
10	described.	
11		
12	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my	
13	hand this 28th day of December, 2016.	
14		
15		
16		
17		
18	0	
19	Lette Kaltenbusse	
20	BETH A. KALTENBERGER, RPR, CRR Missouri CCR No. 1335	
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