

STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing

October 26, 2015

Queen City, Missouri

Volume 3

In The Matter Of The Application Of )  
Ameren Transmission Company Of Illinois )  
For other Relief Or, In The Alternative, )  
A Certificate Of Public Convenience And )  
Necessity Authorizing It To Construct, )  
Install, Own, Operate, Maintain And )  
Otherwise Control And Manage A 345,000 )  
Volt Electric Transmission Line From )  
Palmyra, Missouri To The Iowa Border )  
And An associated Substation Near )  
Kirksville, Missouri )

File No.  
EA-2015-0146

RONALD D. PRIDGIN, Presiding  
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

REPORTED BY: STEPHANIE PREWITT, RPR, CCR 746  
TIGER COURT REPORTING, LLC

A P P E A R A N C E S

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2  
3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Good evening. It  
4 is six o'clock, and I'm going to go ahead and adjourn --  
5 excuse me. Adjourn? I mean, convene this hearing. I had  
6 a commissioner who may still make it. Her mother has taken  
7 ill and needed to go to the hospital, so I'm not sure if or  
8 when she'll be here, so I want to go ahead and get started  
9 since it's six o'clock.

10 I need to speak up? Is this a little bit  
11 better? All right.

12 My name is Ron Pridgin. I am a judge with the  
13 Missouri Public Service Commission, and I will be presiding  
14 over this hearing. If some commissioners show up later  
15 this evening, I will ask if they have any opening remarks  
16 for you.

17 And let me see if we have any counsel that  
18 wish to enter an appearance, beginning with ATXI, please.

19 MR. LOWERY: Thank you, your Honor. Jim  
20 Lowery with the law firm of Smith Lewis, LLP, PO Box 918,  
21 Columbia, Missouri 65205, on behalf of Ameren Transmission  
22 of Illinois.

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Lowery, thank you. On  
24 behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel, please?

25 MR. OPITZ: Thank you, Judge. On behalf of

1 the Office of Public Counsel, I'm Tim Opitz, PO Box 2230,  
2 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Opitz, thank you. On  
4 behalf of the staff of the Commission, please?

5 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Judge. On behalf of  
6 Staff Counsel is Mark Johnson, PO Box 360, Jefferson City,  
7 Missouri 65102.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Johnson, thank you. On  
9 behalf of Neighbors United, please?

10 MS. HERNANDEZ: Jennifer Hernandez, Hernandez  
11 Law Firm, LLC, 1802 Sun Valley Drive, Jefferson City,  
12 Missouri 65109.

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Hernandez, thank you. On  
14 behalf of United for Missouri, please?

15 MR. LINTON: Good evening, Judge. David  
16 Linton on behalf of United for Missouri, 314 Romaine Spring  
17 View, Fenton, Missouri. Thank you.

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Linton, thank you. And  
19 have I overlooked anyone?

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Before taking any  
21 testimony, I want to give you a little information about  
22 this hearing and why the Commission is holding it. ATXI  
23 has applied to the Commission for approval of plans to  
24 construct a transmission line through Shelby, Marion, Knox,  
25 Schuyler, and Adair counties as well as an associated

1 converter station in Adair County. The Commission may  
2 grant permission if it decides the construction is  
3 necessary or convenient for the public service. The  
4 Commission cannot decide any questions about eminent  
5 domain. Those questions can only be addressed in Circuit  
6 Court.

7 The Commission has already scheduled an  
8 evidentiary hearing for December of this year, but we are  
9 also holding local public hearings. We had one in Shelby  
10 County last week and will have one in Adair County tomorrow  
11 night, and the purpose of these hearings is to get the  
12 testimony from people regarding this proposed project.

13 I'm going to call the names listed on the  
14 sign-up sheet. I will -- when I call your name, I'll ask  
15 that you please come to the podium and be sworn. If you do  
16 not wish to take an oath, please let me know and I will ask  
17 that your testimony be affirmed instead.

18 There are quite a few people here this  
19 evening, so I will ask everyone to keep their comments at  
20 five minutes. I will have a timer on my phone. I will let  
21 you know when your five minutes are up and ask that you  
22 please wrap up your comments shortly.

23 If there are any questions that you have, you  
24 may speak to any of the folks that have introduced  
25 themselves to you earlier this evening, and my final

1 request is to ask everyone please be polite and courteous  
2 to those speaking and treat them as you would like to be  
3 treated.

4 And I will do my best to read names on the  
5 signup sheet. I apologize in advance if I mispronounce  
6 anyone's name. As you can see, mine is easily  
7 mispronounced, and I apologize if I get any names  
8 mispronounced this evening. We will probably take a break  
9 around eight o'clock, just so people know, and try to plan  
10 your schedules accordingly.

11 All right. First witness I have is John  
12 Bliven.

13 (Witness sworn.)

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. If you would,  
15 please, state and spell your name for the court reporter,  
16 and then you may give your comments.

17 MR. BLIVEN: Okay. John, J-o-h-n, last name  
18 Bliven, B-l-i-v as in Victor -e-n, and I reside in  
19 Columbia, Missouri. I wanted to come this evening in  
20 support of the transmission line. I believe that  
21 infrastructure is a requirement for sustained economic  
22 growth. Any transmission line is a major part of this  
23 infrastructure required to help Missouri grow.

24 I'm the business unit director at Hubbell  
25 Power Systems located in Centralia, Missouri. Many of our

1 products manufactured in Centralia are used for these large  
2 utility transmission projects, products like earth anchors,  
3 used under the foundation of the towers, and also the  
4 hardware that's used in the construction of towers.

5 I support the transmission line because it  
6 helps drive growth. It also helps Missourians, not only  
7 with the opportunity for clean electricity, but it also  
8 supports jobs. My location employs approximately 750  
9 Missourians. The way I see it, clean, green power,  
10 economic growth, and products manufactured in Missouri by  
11 Missourians. Thank you.

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Bliven, thank you very  
13 much, and the next witness is Benny Murphy. And again, if  
14 you'll notice, I do have a court reporter. The  
15 commissioners will be able to read your remarks.

16 And Mr. Murphy, if you'll come forward to be  
17 sworn, please.

18 MR. MURPHY: I've got a question first.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay.

20 MR. MURPHY: I'd like to give my time to my  
21 wife.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Certainly, I'd be glad to do  
23 that.

24 MR. MURPHY: Will that be all right?

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: That will be fine, thank you.

1 Thank you, Mr. Murphy. Ms. Murphy?

2 (Witness sworn.)

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would, please state and  
4 spell your name for the court reporter, and then you may  
5 give your testimony.

6 MS. MURPHY: My name is Marla Murphy. It's  
7 M-a-r-l-a M-u-r-p-h-y. Please -- Dear Public Service  
8 Commissioners, please help us save our farm and those of  
9 our neighbors. Ameren Illinois' proposed Mark Twain  
10 transmission project in Northeast Missouri is not needed or  
11 wanted. This line will leave our farm residence sandwiched  
12 between two high voltage transmission lines located less  
13 than a fourth mile away and completely ruin the view out of  
14 the large picture window that we look out of to see our  
15 cattle grazing in the pasture.

16 It will also greatly impact our farming  
17 operation and reduce productivity, hinder our ability to  
18 grow crops, harvest hay, and maintain the pastures that are  
19 necessary for the growth of our beef cow and calf herd. It  
20 will restrict our ability to rotate crops from hay to  
21 soybeans or corn and will prohibit the aerial and ground  
22 application of fertilizer and fungicides that are needed  
23 for maintaining high yields.

24 Our 90 acres of pasture and part of the hay  
25 field that we plan to raise crops on next year will be



1 unusable for almost two years or more. Every place Ameren  
2 Illinois goes with its massive equipment through our  
3 pastures will have to be reseeded and livestock cannot be  
4 returned to the area until the newly seeded grasses have  
5 taken root.

6 It will also cause severe soil erosion and  
7 soil -- soil compaction and soil erosion on the hilly  
8 ground. Our cows will have to be kept elsewhere and fed  
9 hay and grain for at least two years. We do not want to --  
10 we do not have enough hay to feed them for an extended  
11 period of time, and we do not want to purchase hay as it  
12 usually is not of good quality. Purchasing hay is very  
13 expensive, and the hay may be several years old and contain  
14 unwanted weeds, mold, et cetera.

15 We also do not want strangers in our fields as  
16 our cattle are only used to our family working around them.  
17 Ameren has stated that it will take care of our cows, but I  
18 know that if we do not move them and take care of them  
19 ourselves, they will probably just load them up and take  
20 them to a sale barn.

21 We are also very concerned about Ameren's  
22 equipment spreading unwanted noxious weeds such as teasel  
23 and some of the livestock diseases such as black leg and  
24 anthrax that are found in the soil.

25 Farmers sometimes know more than rocket

1 scientists. Remember the Challenger disaster? Even a  
2 farmer knows that O-rings won't work like they should when  
3 temperatures are below freezing. Farmers know their land,  
4 their livestock, and how to take care of them. ATXI does  
5 not.

6 Ameren will also have to cut through our  
7 fences in several places to get their huge equipment onto  
8 our property, and any splicing they do to our fences will  
9 leave a weak spot in the fence. Fencing is very expensive  
10 and takes a lot of labor to build.

11 I don't think anyone who works for Ameren  
12 would appreciate us going onto their property and digging  
13 deep holes, putting up large poles, and stringing up  
14 electric wires through the yards near their homes, but that  
15 is what they plan to do to our farm and our neighbors'  
16 farms. This transmission line will not go along roads or  
17 property lines. It will cut diagonally through our farm as  
18 it goes from Kirksville to Palmyra.

19 This transmission line is also supposed to go  
20 directly over a pond we use for watering our livestock, and  
21 this would be very dangerous in the event these lines would  
22 happen to come down in a storm. We also use the pond for  
23 recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, boating,  
24 and even on occasion our daughters go ice skating on it in  
25 the winter.

1           This would drastically affect those activities  
2 and ruin future building sites near this pond and along the  
3 blacktops and gravel roads that border our property. No  
4 homes, barns, grain bins, or other structures will ever be  
5 built in this area. We will not be able to build any  
6 additional ponds, terraces, or waterways in the area of  
7 this transmission line.

8           We also enjoy hunting on our property, but  
9 this transmission line will drastically reduce the wild  
10 game that can be found there such as deer, turkey,  
11 pheasants, geese, ducks, rabbits, and squirrels.

12           It will also remove trees needed for shade and  
13 wind breaks for our cattle and homes for the bald eagles,  
14 red-tailed hawks, and bats we have seen flying over our  
15 property.

16           I find it ironic that years ago every farm in  
17 the country had a windmill, but when electricity came to  
18 the area, they all fell in disrepair or were taken down.  
19 Now we are replacing coal-fired electrical generating  
20 plants with wind energy that was considered unreliable  
21 years ago.

22           I have pictures of these big wind turbines and  
23 what happens when they break down. The top portion can  
24 catch fire and fall to the ground, burning everything  
25 around it. Also, the massive blades can detach and

1 puncture vehicles, buildings, or land on people. Wind  
2 energy is not without its own set of problems.

3 Please, I beg you. Do not grant ATXI  
4 permission to build this high voltage transmission line and  
5 take the land that my husband bought in 1968 soon after he  
6 graduated from high school and part of the farm next to it  
7 that we bought in 1988 away from us.

8 My husband was in the National Guard and went  
9 to Alexandria, Missouri in 1973 to help save the homes and  
10 land of those who were being affected by the flooding of  
11 that area by the Mississippi River. We now hope those on  
12 the PSC will help us save our homes and farms.

13 No amount of money can compensate us for our  
14 losses. My husband and I have worked hard for years to  
15 purchase our land and take care of it. Several generations  
16 of our forefathers who came to Adair County in the late  
17 1830s settled this area and raised their families hoping  
18 for a better life.

19 Ameren's proposed high voltage transmission  
20 line has already made life very difficult for us, but we  
21 hope it can be stopped. Stress is not a good thing, nor is  
22 living or working near this line. We are very concerned  
23 about our health, our daughter's health, and the health of  
24 our beef cow herd.

25 Property values may decline, and I'm sure it

1 will be more than the 10 percent drop that Ameren is  
2 projecting. Some landowners who are now trying to sell  
3 their property so they can retire may not even be able to  
4 do so.

5 Thank you so much for your time, and we hope  
6 you consider all of our concerns and not be swayed by the  
7 money Ameren is promising to pay out to get this line  
8 erected through Northeast Missouri and our property.

9 And if you'd be interested in some pictures, I  
10 can provide those, of our land and our machinery.

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: That's up to you, Ms. Murphy.  
12 If you want to, you can give those to the court reporter.

13 MS. MURPHY: I've got several of them, and  
14 I've wrote a note on them. Is this the court reporter?

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, ma'am. Does that  
16 conclude your remarks?

17 MS. MURPHY: Uh-huh.

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you so much.  
19 We'll mark that as Exhibit 1, please.

20 (Exhibit 1 was marked for identification.)

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Curt Peitzman.

22 (Witness sworn.)

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you so much, sir. If  
24 you would, please, state and spell your name for the court  
25 reporter, and you may give your testimony.

1 MR. PEITZMAN: My name is Curt Peitzman,  
2 C-u-r-t P-e-i-t-z-m-a-n. I'm here tonight to speak in  
3 favor of the transmission line. I'm a civil contractor and  
4 I'm also a Missouri resident.

5 I was raised in a family farm in Lincoln  
6 County, and so when I hear the needs and the concerns of  
7 the farmers, I want them to know that I understand those  
8 concerns. I also -- we have a 69 kV transmission line that  
9 actually transverses part of our farm, and so I very much  
10 understand part of their concerns.

11 I want them to know that we're a contractor  
12 that installs access and foundations, and oftentimes we are  
13 the first people in and the last people to leave, so when  
14 it comes time for decompaction, we understand what  
15 decompaction is and we understand how decompaction  
16 adversely affects things if it's not done correctly.

17 One of the keys to this project, I think, that  
18 will benefit the area is that we're looking at over a  
19 hundred thousand man-hours that would be comprised majority  
20 -- majority of local people. We only bring key people in  
21 when we install these transmission lines. We source local  
22 labor.

23 In addition, we buy material from local  
24 sources. Ameren is very upfront and forthright about the  
25 readiness to buy any material we can from local resources

1 and using local subcontractors.

2 Again, I can't stress enough the amount of  
3 preplanning and talking about the needs and the sensitivity  
4 to the locals and as well as any of the storm water  
5 protection and prevention concerns. It's something that we  
6 meet continually on. So, thank you.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Peitzman, thank you, and I  
8 apologize for mispronouncing your name earlier. Jeannette  
9 Gregory.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you very  
12 much. If you would, please, state and spell your name for  
13 the court reporter, and you may give your testimony.

14 MS. GREGORY: Jeannette Gregory,  
15 J-e-a-n-n-e-t-t-e G-r-e-g-o-r-y. I want to thank you,  
16 Commissioner, for allowing me to speak. On July of 1972 we  
17 purchased our land and have lived there for 43 years.  
18 That's where our daughter grew up and it's where our  
19 grandchildren love to hunt and play.

20 The proposed 345,000 volt line will cross the  
21 -- cross the highway less than 300 feet from our home.  
22 It's what we'll see when we look out the front door. The  
23 proposed line will cross the road less than 300 feet from  
24 our home. Crossing our property diagonally, it crosses to  
25 our rented farm acreage, a creek, and a timber area used

1 for hunting.

2 Our concerns are it will destroy our serene  
3 countryside and add additional noise. We have health  
4 concerns, and it will -- and will we have a home because of  
5 the close proximity to the 345,000 volt line.

6 Other concerns are upgrade and additional cost  
7 to property owners such as upgrade to electrical systems  
8 from no code to national code, loss of income, replace  
9 aluminum siding, replace a steel storage shed, which a low  
10 estimate of 55,000 to 70,000 dollars to the homeowners,  
11 increasing the voltage from a 345,000 volt to 550,000 volt  
12 or even to 750,000 volts. That's a major concern. Will we  
13 even be able to live there? It will lower the property  
14 values.

15 The commissioners in all five counties have  
16 signed resolutions opposing ATXI Mark Twain Transmission  
17 Project. I am asking you, the PSC Commissioners, to  
18 protect our private property rights and not approve this  
19 project. Thank you.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Gregory, thank you. Ken  
21 Knobbe.

22 (Witness sworn.)

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. If you  
24 would, please, state and spell your name for the court  
25 reporter and then give your testimony.



1 MR. KNOBBE: My name is Ken Knobbe,  
2 K-n-o-b-b-e. I stand before you today in favor of the  
3 transmission line. As I said, my name is Ken Knobbe. I'm  
4 from Bonn Terre, Missouri. I am president of a  
5 construction company out of St. Louis. We perform site  
6 civil construction work which includes excavation, drilled  
7 piers, and the installation of concrete foundations for  
8 transmission lines. We see this as a good for Missouri.

9 The majority of our employees, which we employ  
10 about 80 folks in the field and about 20 folks at our  
11 office, are from the state of Missouri. Our key  
12 supervisors and key foremen are regular employees that  
13 would be employed on a project such as this, and then we  
14 would normally hire local tradespersons from the area.

15 The average tradesperson that works for  
16 McGrath & Associates has a salary of approximately 45 to  
17 60,000 dollars a year, depending on how many hours they  
18 work in a year. From a site civil standpoint, we see this  
19 project as having approximately 125,000 man-hours. This  
20 equates to approximately 40 tradespersons' employment for a  
21 year and a half to two years.

22 This does not -- this does not include the  
23 man-hours associated with construction materials such as  
24 concrete that's going to be -- which would be in the  
25 foundations. The concrete range is approximately 55 --

1 56,000 cubic yards, which is a substantial amount of  
2 concrete, that is all purchased locally here.

3 Another economic impact -- impact that would  
4 come to the area through the construction would be through  
5 restaurants and hotel usage. So we see this as good for  
6 the state of Missouri. Thank you.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Knobbe, thank you. Scott  
8 Plocker or Plucker (phonetic). I apologize for  
9 mispronouncing the name.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. If you would,  
12 please, state and spell your name, and then give your  
13 testimony.

14 MR. PLOCHER: My name is Scott Plochier,  
15 S-c-o-t-t P-l-o-c-h-e-r. I come tonight in favor of the  
16 Mark Twain Transmission Line project. As Mr. Peitzman and  
17 Mr. Knobbe just mentioned, we are also a civil contractor  
18 for Ameren, but more importantly, I'm a grain farmer from  
19 southern Illinois.

20 We see a direct economic benefit to this area  
21 from our past projects. Additionally -- in addition to the  
22 direct layer, the hotels, the restaurants, the area will  
23 also experience an increase in local tax revenue to  
24 schools, roads, police, and fire protection districts.

25 On our personal farm in southern Illinois, we

1 have not experienced any impacts with transmission lines on  
2 our property and we farm around them without any problems  
3 or hassle and no impacts. So, I know every farm's  
4 different and everybody farms a little different. It's  
5 just from our personal experience, it has not been any --  
6 had any issues. So, thank you.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you, sir.  
8 Jeff Brawner.

9 (Witness sworn.)

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you so much. Please  
11 state and spell your name for the court reporter.

12 MR. BRAWNER: I'm Jeff Brawner, J-e-f-f  
13 B-r-a-w-n-e-r. First of all, I'd like to thank you for  
14 being here, and I'm as a taxpayer a little disappointed in  
15 -- where the rest of your commission is at, why they -- you  
16 know, where their interest in this event is; okay?

17 I live northeast of Kirksville about eight  
18 miles. I farm. I was born and raised there in Adair  
19 County, and this line would pass through 160 acres of our  
20 family farm, about one-third native timber, about one-third  
21 fertile river bottom, which precision application of seed  
22 and fertilizer would have to cease from my understanding  
23 because it would not work under these lines, and about  
24 one-third wetland.

25 And I've been told by -- just told by the guy

1 driving the fertilizer truck the other day, and I've heard  
2 it dozens of times over the years, that this is probably  
3 some of the best hunting anywhere in the state of Missouri  
4 for deer and turkey, and a 150-foot easement would destroy  
5 all four of those.

6 Now, Ameren Illinois being an investor-owned,  
7 I can understand where this being cheaper to run this route  
8 than going through Iowa. I could understand why they would  
9 want to take this route, but frankly, I'm not interested in  
10 destroying the land that my mom and dad worked for years to  
11 pay for to add to their farming operation so some investor  
12 out east can draw more on his 401(k). And like I say,  
13 we're not even talking about Ameren Missouri. It's Ameren  
14 Illinois; okay?

15 I've heard a lot of things. I'm not well  
16 versed on this, but I've read a little bit on it. I've  
17 heard a lot of things, but there's also a lot of things I  
18 have not heard. One of your -- and I think it's  
19 interesting we've had either three or four people in  
20 support, but every one of them, none of them live within  
21 150 miles of here, none of them own land here, but every  
22 single one of them stood to gain financially from this  
23 line.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. BRAUNER: Every one of them; okay?

1           Anyway, increased tax base: I've been on the  
2 Kirksville School Board for five and a half years. The  
3 last two and a half years I've served as President and I  
4 have not to this date heard one single figure from anyone,  
5 especially Ameren, of what this would gain our school  
6 board. Not one word from them. And as being the president  
7 for the last three years, I'm kind of in the know, and  
8 there's not one word.

9           So your last gentleman, you know, it's like  
10 everything you read. We get a lot of generalizations, but  
11 we're not getting any facts, and the reason I'm here  
12 tonight is because I'm going to be at a school board  
13 function in Highland tomorrow night or I would call him on  
14 it again. Do not say you're going to help our school  
15 boards unless you can give us a number; okay?

16           And improves reliability and access to lower  
17 cost energy? This is speculation, but knowing the route of  
18 this line, I would venture to guess that very near 100  
19 percent of the landowners are not served by Ameren Missouri  
20 and dang sure not by Ameren Illinois.

21           (Applause.)

22           MR. BRAUNER: We have electric cooperatives  
23 that already provide low cost, reliable power. This will  
24 not provide one single long-term benefit to any landowner  
25 that it passes through on its entire route. Thank you very

1 much.

2 (Appl ause.)

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Brawner, thank you. David  
4 Sidwell.

5 (Witness sworn.)

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. If you would,  
7 please, state and spell your name for the court reporter,  
8 and you may give your testimony.

9 MR. SIDWELL: My name's David Sidwell. That's  
10 spelled S-i-d-w-e-l-l. I want to thank the members of the  
11 Missouri Public Service Commission for the opportunity to  
12 testify about the proposed unnecessary Mark Twain  
13 Transmission Project.

14 Tonight I would like to testify on behalf of  
15 my elderly parents, William and Eloise Sidwell. They're  
16 both in their nineties and confined to a nursing home. My  
17 father's a 91-year-old World War II veteran. After  
18 surviving his experiences in the South Pacific, he returned  
19 to Missouri and spent over 60 years crating a family farm  
20 from zero.

21 The Ameren utility company has proposed  
22 building a power line in a diagonal across 100 acres of the  
23 best farmland that my parents own. This power line will  
24 not follow the boundary lines of their property. This  
25 will greatly hinder any future farming activities and will

1 greatly reduce the farm's market value.

2 This farmland is currently enrolled in a  
3 federal Conservation Reserve Program. We have been advised  
4 that my parents cannot sell these acres or sell an easement  
5 on them unless the future owner will agree to maintain that  
6 property in a manner that satisfies the current agreement  
7 between my parents and the federal government. Otherwise,  
8 my parents may be liable to repay the government for years  
9 of CRP payments. There's no indication that Ameren intends  
10 to maintain any easement in a manner that will satisfy a  
11 CRP agreement.

12 This also crosses my parents' pastureland.  
13 This grassland provides substantial grazing rental revenue,  
14 and an Ameren representative has informed those with  
15 grazing operations that they will just have to move their  
16 cows. We do not have anyplace to move cows to. Ameren's  
17 proposed actions will result in shutting down my parents'  
18 grazing rental operations with no compensation for lost  
19 revenue.

20 This property also produces a substantial  
21 amount of contracted hunting revenue. This hunting  
22 business is a result of 30 years of a substantial  
23 investment in hunting cabins and advertising. Hunting  
24 clients arrive from all over the United States and book  
25 hunts months in advance. This power line project will

1 disturb the wildlife and hunters will be reluctant to  
2 continue to book hunts near a construction project or spend  
3 hours under or near high power voltage lines.

4 My parents must currently meet very  
5 substantial nursing home expenses from the farming,  
6 grazing, and hunting revenues their farm produces. If  
7 these revenue streams are reduced or interrupted, my  
8 parents may not be able to pay for their care. This may  
9 result in forcing them to sell this farm. The proceeds  
10 from the sale of the farm will be greatly reduced as a  
11 result of the existence of the power line. This project  
12 will place a very heavy financial burden on my parents.

13 It is my understanding that the Ameren company  
14 has recently made the argument that their subsidiary  
15 construction company will be building this power line. As  
16 a result, they did not have to have permission from the  
17 Missouri Public Service Commission to begin construction.  
18 Ameren argued that the utility line was not being built by  
19 a utility company.

20 The subsidiary company was at the same time  
21 informing Missouri citizens that they were a utility  
22 company and that entitled them to the power of eminent  
23 domain. A leading easement attorney observed that the same  
24 company was declaring that it was and was not a utility  
25 company in order to victimize Missouri citizens like my



1 elderly parents.

2           The best argument that this power line is not  
3 necessary is demonstrated by the actions of the Ameren  
4 company itself. If they thought this power line was  
5 necessary, why did they not respect the rights of Missouri  
6 citizens, follow established procedures, and make an  
7 honest, straightforward presentation to the Missouri Public  
8 Service Commission in the first place instead of being  
9 forced to?

10           The elected officials of five Missouri  
11 counties, including this one, have passed resolutions  
12 opposing the construction of this power line. They have  
13 refused to grant permission to allow the utility line to  
14 cross their counties.

15           They will not respect the rights of those  
16 Missouri counties and their officials in addition to not  
17 respecting the rights of the Missouri citizens under or  
18 near the proposed utility lines. Please review this  
19 project carefully and prevent construction of this  
20 unnecessary Mark Twain Transmission Project. Thanks a lot  
21 for your time.

22           (Applause.)

23           JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Sidwell, thank you. Frank  
24 Miller.

25           (Witness sworn.)

1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. If you would,  
2 please, state and spell your name for the court reporter  
3 and give your testimony.

4 MR. MILLER: Frank Miller, F-r-a-n-k  
5 M-i-l-l-e-r. I'm a landowner that will be affected by the  
6 Mark Twain Transmission Line. We have a farm just about  
7 three miles east of here.

8 I oppose the power line because I believe it  
9 is not in our best interest, not as landowners or the  
10 public in general. Missourians will not benefit from the  
11 power line coming through our state. There are risk  
12 involved to farmers and livestock from possible stray  
13 voltage that need to be avoided.

14 The Ameren Transmission Line of Illinois or  
15 ATXI has shown a lack of respect and integrity to  
16 landowners by wanting to have eminent domain enforced on us  
17 if we refuse to allow them access to our land. They tell  
18 us that they will compensate us for use of our land, but  
19 there's no amount of compensation that will make up for the  
20 destruction of farmable land this power line will create.

21 The power line will not only destroy some of  
22 our farmable ground, but it will also go through a wooded  
23 creek bottom on our farm that will disrupt wildlife and  
24 prime hunting that my family has enjoyed for generations.

25 I'd also like to know a monetary amount this

1 power line would have on property values. Our farm has  
2 been in our family for over 160 years, and we've seen seven  
3 generations living on it. I have no plans to ever sell  
4 this farm, but if we had to, I don't want to have to settle  
5 for a low amount due to a high voltage power line running  
6 through it.

7 I ask the commissioners of the Public Service  
8 Commission to help us, and I want to thank the  
9 commissioners for their time and consideration on this  
10 matter. I also want to thank the attorneys and the many  
11 people of Neighbors United who are helping us to voice our  
12 opposition to the Mark Twain transmission project.

13 (Applause.)

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Miller, thank you. Sharon  
15 Johns.

16 (Witness sworn.)

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, ma'am. If you  
18 would, please, state and spell your name, and then you may  
19 give your testimony.

20 MS. JOHNS: Sharon Johns, S-h-a-r-o-n  
21 J-o-h-n-s. I live three miles east of Queen City where my  
22 husband and myself purchased four acres of land from his  
23 family to build a new home in 1978. Now ATXI's proposed  
24 345,000 volt power line is to run approximately 1,200 feet  
25 from our home. The same line is proposed also to run

1 approximately 118 foot from the farmhouse and through our  
2 50-year-old farm.

3 Our son and daughter-in-law and our  
4 four-year-old granddaughter did live in that house and was  
5 considering buying land east of the farmhouse and building  
6 a new home on the family farm somewhere in the future. The  
7 area that they are considering is right where ATXI's  
8 proposed power line was proposed to go.

9 After much thought and research, they decided  
10 to abandon the idea of continuing to live on the family  
11 farm next to us and here in Schuyler County, and they  
12 bought a home and moved. This is now the empty farmhouse  
13 that I look at every day. They didn't want -- they did not  
14 want to live on the family farm home or build a new home on  
15 the farm with the chance of the high voltage power line  
16 running next to their living room, their bedrooms, or  
17 through their home.

18 After family had met with Ameren and wrote  
19 letters to Ameren, a second proposal line was shown to go  
20 west of our homes. This would be further from our homes,  
21 but it would still affect our farmland and a large pond.

22 A big concern on every letter or map that we  
23 have received is a statement that reads that lines can be  
24 moved at any time once these lines are being built. These  
25 proposed lines are not set in stone, and it just shows that

1 ATXI could do whatever they want once they start to build.

2 And this is what is on the bottom of most  
3 everything: "The information provided on this map is for  
4 discussion purposes only. ATXI is not bound in any way to  
5 representations reflected on this map. This map does not  
6 represent a final determination by ATXI as a route  
7 selection, and ATXI is not restricted or barred from  
8 modifying or deviating from the routes proposed or  
9 considering new or different routes. All routes are  
10 subject to change."

11 ATXI has already pushed our son and his family  
12 off the farm related to possible health effects that are  
13 possible from the stray voltage from the lines and the  
14 possibility that the line was going to run near the home or  
15 through their home.

16 Now when I drive through there every day, I  
17 look at this swing set that hasn't been touched since they  
18 moved. There's grass grown up over the slide and over the  
19 swings.

20 Please do not give ATXI the right to construct  
21 the 345,000 voltage power line on or near our farmhouse or  
22 across or through our 50-year-old farm by breaking it up or  
23 taking our farmland that has been passed down from  
24 generation to generation, destroying our land and taking it  
25 out of production. Also, these things will lower property

1 values from maybe 30 to 40 percent.

2 It is just not our family farm that we are  
3 concerned about. It is all the other farms that would be  
4 affected through their approximate 100-mile high voltage  
5 proposed power line to run through the five counties of  
6 Missouri.

7 The lines are not wanted and they are not  
8 needed. These lines are not in the public interest. This  
9 has already been shown before, and now through clear  
10 messages from landowners and elected county commissioners  
11 in all five counties. Please listen to all of our  
12 community. Please deny ATXI the right to construct these  
13 lines. They're not wanted or needed. Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Johns, thank you. Randy  
16 Johns.

17 MS. JOHNS: I would also like to speak for my  
18 son. He was unable to make it back from a trip.

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Certainly, when you're ready.  
20 You're still under oath.

21 MS. JOHNS: This is Matt Johns and this is his  
22 daughter, four-year-old daughter who's now in kindergarten.

23 He says, Today I want to speak out against the  
24 Mark Twain Transmission Line project. I would like anyone  
25 who can help stop the power line from being forced through

1 our land to stop and think about the devastating impact  
2 that it can have on the lives of the farmers, landowners,  
3 families, and communities that stand in its path. Although  
4 the fight to stop the high voltage line is still ongoing, I  
5 can attest to the life altering decisions that many of us  
6 may have to make if Ameren is able to force their way  
7 through our land.

8           In 2'09 my wife and I just found out that we  
9 were going to have a baby girl. Living in a small  
10 two-bedroom home and realizing that we were going to have  
11 to have a bigger home, we were very fortunate to find out  
12 that we were able to move back to our family farm, the same  
13 farm where my grandparents had raised their family, the  
14 same home that I had spent many summer days playing in the  
15 yard with family, going to family dinners, and working  
16 alongside my father, my grandfather, and my brothers, the  
17 same home that was just over the hill from my parents. The  
18 house that had given me so many childhood memories would  
19 soon be a place that my family would make its own memories.

20           Unfortunately, the dream of raising my family  
21 on the farm that I had grown up on abruptly ended. As my  
22 daughter was soon due to start kindergarten, we learned of  
23 the plans to bring Mark Twain Transmission Line through  
24 northeast Missouri and possibly on our land. As more  
25 details were unveiled to the public, we learned that the

1 high voltage transmission line project would go straight  
2 down the middle of the farm. The projected route will  
3 split our land in half. The map showed the power line  
4 running through my favorite front yard with its allotted  
5 easement giving Ameren the right to do what they want  
6 dangerously close to my home.

7 As we learned more details of what the  
8 transmission line would be like, the amount of land it  
9 would consume, the possible health-related and economic  
10 effects that it could have, and not wanting to raise our  
11 child under the umbrella of Ameren's transmission line, my  
12 wife and I made the difficult decision to leave the farm  
13 and home that we had hoped to live and raise our daughter  
14 on. It was very difficult for us to leave our home, but we  
15 felt the possibility of having to live next to such high  
16 voltage power line gave us no choice.

17 My story is only one example of how just the  
18 very threat of having such a power line forced on our land  
19 can negatively impact an individual's life and well-being.  
20 I want to take time to thank everyone involved with  
21 Neighbors United for everything that they have done to  
22 oppose the Mark Twain Transmission Line, and I plead with  
23 anybody who has the power to or can in any way help to stop  
24 this transmission line to ask them, What if this was my  
25 land? What if this was my home? What if this was my



1 family?

2 Please say no to the Mark Twain Transmission  
3 Line project. Thank you for your time. Matt Johns.

4 (Applause.)

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Johns, thank you. We'll  
6 mark that as Exhibit 2.

7 (Exhibit 2 was marked for identification.)

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Randy Johns.

9 (Witness sworn.)

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. Please state  
11 and spell your name for the court reporter, and you may  
12 give your testimony.

13 MR. JOHNS: My name is Randy Johns. Capital  
14 R-a-n-d-y, capital J-o-h-n-s. I'm representing the Johns  
15 Family Trust here tonight which includes myself, the eldest  
16 of eight children, 39 grandchildren, great-grandchildren,  
17 and one great-great-grandchildren of my parents, who have  
18 passed.

19 We have owned the farm over 50 years. It's in  
20 East Prairie Township, Section 31, two and a half to three  
21 miles east of Queen City. We grow corn, soy beans, wheat,  
22 oats, and have raised cattle and hogs also.

23 This line originally, as my wife just said,  
24 was to come within 118 to 121 feet -- this is Ameren's  
25 measurements -- the easement 43 foot to 46 foot from my

1 granddaughter's bedroom window, and as you've heard,  
2 they've had to leave due to reading about health reasons to  
3 her.

4 Our farming practices we feel will be  
5 endangered by not being able to use the GPS systems and  
6 other electronic monitoring systems and the large tractors,  
7 the combine, sprayers, planter, and so forth, and also air  
8 applications occasionally when they've been needed.

9 We're also worried about the compaction that  
10 will come from putting these lines in and also navigating  
11 around these poles with large equipment. As my wife  
12 stated, ATXI to their credit, I guess, says that they may  
13 go down now to the west side of our property, which will  
14 still impact the same ways on our equipment and our farming  
15 practices.

16 It will also go over a large pond which we use  
17 for livestock water and also recreation of some of those  
18 60-some people that are in our family trust, fishing and  
19 swimming mostly, and like I said, still affect the same  
20 farming practices.

21 On the south end of our farm is CRP, which  
22 either one of these lines would go through, and it's going  
23 to limit our conservation practices. It will limit, as I  
24 understand it, one of them which is controlled burning on  
25 the grasses and so forth. Also, we are required by the

1 contract to plant two different wildlife plots on this CRP  
2 acreage, and we have to maintain them and plant them every  
3 year, and we wonder how this is going to affect this  
4 Conservation Reserve Program.

5 I've farmed this farm with my father until he  
6 passed several years ago. I came back from another job  
7 after going to college in 1976 and farmed it until two  
8 years ago and I rented it to a neighbor and he also has  
9 three other farms this line's coming through. He was  
10 unable to be here tonight, but he hopes he'll be in Adair  
11 tomorrow to speak, but these lines are going to affect his  
12 equipment. They are affecting the same as it would ours, I  
13 guess.

14 He's worried about maybe the rents maybe  
15 having to come down and I am, too, because that's the  
16 income we are paying the bills for my folks staying in the  
17 nursing home for five or six years. It's going to -- and  
18 also he'll have the same problems with the compaction and  
19 navigating around poles.

20 We feel there's little benefit to Missouri,  
21 especially northeast Missouri, for this line. It will  
22 affect all of the people coming through it in very adverse  
23 ways. We wonder how an out-of-state business and product  
24 could cause such proposed damage to our lives and our  
25 properties, and we please ask you not to allow this line to

1 go across our farms here in northeast Missouri in all five  
2 of these counties. Thank you for your consideration.

3 (Appl ause. )

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Johns, thank you. The  
5 next name is crossed out. Let me double-check. Deborah  
6 Games?

7 MS. GAMES: I'm going to pass.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, ma'am. John  
9 Hoffmann.

10 (Wi tness sworn. )

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Please state and spell your  
12 name. Then you may give your testimony.

13 MR. HOFFMAN: I'm John Hoffmann, J-o-h-n  
14 H-o-f-f-m-a-n-n. What is it you want?

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: That's it. Whatever comments  
16 you have for the Commission, sir.

17 MR. HOFFMANN: All right. My property is  
18 going to be crossed by the power line and it's therefore  
19 impacted directly. This land has been in my family. For  
20 about 150 years, there's been a Hoffmann living on this  
21 property.

22 I'm opposed to the MTTP for the following  
23 reasons: Number one, I think it violates Missouri's Right  
24 to Farm laws and is going to incur farm losses, on my farm  
25 in particular.

1 I'm concerned that the high voltage power line  
2 may offer hazards to our cattle in terms of long-term  
3 health from high voltage exposure and from the possibility  
4 of stray voltage leaking from the overhead lines.

5 I'm concerned that the stature of the towers  
6 to the power line will inhibit my ability to mow pastures  
7 or put pastures up for hay due to the fact that I would  
8 have to maneuver around the towers. This would cost us  
9 money in terms of increased use of fuel and in terms of  
10 increased repairs due to accidental collision with the  
11 power towers. It's possible. I'm not a sloppy driver, but  
12 it could happen.

13 The use of the land of the towers will take  
14 land that we will never be able to use again. This will be  
15 a total loss for our family forever, and the so-called  
16 remuneration for the loss of this land cannot possibly  
17 compensate us for the loss long-term.

18 I'm concerned that the pesticides that may be  
19 used to control vegetation near the towers, the power  
20 lines, will run off into the nearby creek which our cattle  
21 use as a major source of water. Drinking polluted water  
22 may result in either loss of vigor of the livestock or  
23 outright death due to poisoning, depending on what is being  
24 used. This will cost us money and reduce our income.

25 I'm concerned that the power line will cause

1 decreased property values for the entire farm, which is one  
2 contiguous tract. History shows us that power lines  
3 crossing property tends to cause loss in property value. I  
4 don't intend to sell this property ever, but if my  
5 ancestors or my -- not ancestors, but my people who follow  
6 me decide to do so, it's going to impact their ability to  
7 get a fair value.

8 I don't think the MTTP is in the public  
9 interest. There's no demonstrated public need for the  
10 power line, as Missouri's power use, as I understand it,  
11 has declined in recent years. The advent of alternative  
12 distributed sources of electricity make it likely that once  
13 built the power line will never be needed. The time is  
14 near when individuals will be able to meet their own  
15 electricity needs. The fact that the public will be  
16 expected to pay for such a high-cost project that is of  
17 such little use makes the entire project problematic.

18 This looks like a classic case in which a  
19 public-private partnership results in a private company,  
20 ATXI, milking taxpayers and rate payers of moneys in order  
21 to receive a profit for its shareholders without concern  
22 for the impact on the public.

23 Who will be left holding the bag for MTTP once  
24 it's built? Who will have to pay for it as well? Who  
25 takes responsibility for it if it's then decided not to use

1 it? What are the plans for decommissioning it? Who pays  
2 for that?

3 I believe the use of the eminent domain, which  
4 you say you have nothing to do with, should be reserved for  
5 the federal and state government's use for projects that  
6 are critical for public use, such as roads. The use of  
7 eminent domain to confiscate land for the enrichment of a  
8 corporation is unsound. It will establish a precedent in  
9 Missouri that will make it difficult for Missouri to deny  
10 any corporation the taking of land from private landowners.  
11 The property rights --

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. HOFFMANN: The property rights of private  
14 landowners must take precedence over the rights of any  
15 corporation. A corporation exists only to make money for  
16 its shareholders or owners. They care nothing for people.  
17 They care nothing for clean air, clean water, or land. Why  
18 should their right to make a profit from the use of our  
19 land trump our rights to use the same land that we've cared  
20 for and owned for 150 years?

21 If a power line must be built, instead of  
22 confiscating land for a corporation's use, the power line  
23 should follow existing easements, property lines, and  
24 roads. The community is overwhelmingly opposed to the  
25 MTTP, which as is demonstrated by the fact that none of the

1 county commissions have approved the line. None.

2 We ask for your help in stopping this  
3 unnecessary power line project. It's incumbent on you to  
4 look out for our interests as well as the rest of the  
5 public. This Commission is our best hope for stopping this  
6 great wrong about to be done to the public.

7 Because the MTTP is not in the public interest  
8 and letting it go forward would allow wrongful use of  
9 eminent domain, please deny ATXI's application for a  
10 certificate of convenience and necessity. Thank you.  
11 That's all my comments.

12 (Applause).

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Hoffmann, thank you.  
14 Connie Hoffmann.

15 (Witness sworn.)

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, ma'am. Please  
17 state and spell your name, and you may give your testimony.

18 MS. HOFFMANN: Connie, C-o-n-n-i-e, Hoffmann,  
19 H-o-f-f-m-a-n-n. We are concerned that the high voltage  
20 power line may offer hazards to our cattle in terms of  
21 their long-term health from the high voltage exposure and  
22 to the possibility of stray voltage leaking from the  
23 overhead lines.

24 The use of the land for towers will take land  
25 that we will never be able to use again. This will be a



1 total loss for our family forever, and the so-called money  
2 for the loss of that land cannot compensate us for this  
3 loss in the long-term.

4 We are concerned that the use of pesticides to  
5 control vegetation near the towers and the power lines will  
6 run off into nearby creeks which our cattle use as a major  
7 source of water. We are concerned that the power line will  
8 cause decreased property values for the entire farm. We  
9 believe the MTTP violates Missouri's farm laws and will  
10 incur farm losses.

11 Instead of confiscating land for the  
12 corporation's use, the power line should instead follow  
13 existing easements, property lines, and roads. We ask for  
14 your help in stopping this unnecessary power line. Because  
15 this power line is not in the public interest, please deny  
16 ATXI's application for a certificate for convenience and  
17 necessity. Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Hoffmann, thank you.  
20 Tammy Wheeler.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, ma'am. Please  
23 state and spell your name for the court reporter, and then  
24 you may testify.

25 MS. WHEELER: My name is Tammy Wheeler,

1 T-a-m-m-y W-h-e-e-l-e-r. I am here in opposition to the  
2 proposed transmission line. I live in rural Glenwood,  
3 Missouri, and the proposed high voltage power line will  
4 travel through a corner piece of our farm property.

5 To tell my story, I have to go back to 1994.  
6 At that time we lived inside the city limits of Queen City,  
7 Missouri, on the main road at that. It was late in the  
8 summer. We had a 5- or 6-month-old at home teething,  
9 didn't sleep all night. Finally get him to sleep, a car  
10 drag races through town very loudly, wakes the baby. I  
11 gave my husband an ultimatum: We either need to go to the  
12 peace and quiet of the country or soundproof the house.

13 Long story short, we are now the owners of 300  
14 acres that we bought that same year 21 years ago. My  
15 husband has diligently worked with both livestock and row  
16 crop on the farm along with his full-time day job. In  
17 2002, we constructed our lifetime home on that farm. Once  
18 again, we chose this life for the peace, quiet, and beauty  
19 offered in the country. We get to watch deer, birds,  
20 including bald eagles, hear the hoot owls and eerie howling  
21 of coyotes in the night.

22 We are living the American dream; right?  
23 Well, does that American dream include a for-profit,  
24 publicly traded company to be able to claim a right of way  
25 for high voltage access to another state at that? Does

1 that dream include corporations having more rights than the  
2 private landowners?

3 I know that electricity is a staple of today's  
4 lifestyle and would not want to live without it, but the  
5 thought of creating new routes instead of using existing  
6 routes just seems wrong.

7 I would also like to note that I have been  
8 diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. While it is under  
9 control, I wonder what the increased EMFs would do for my  
10 disease. And while this is not a proven fact, I know  
11 several families in the area I work in that have lost loved  
12 ones to cancer. Each of these men farmed under high  
13 voltage power lines. Can that be a correlation? Maybe;  
14 maybe not. But I don't want to take that risk with my  
15 family.

16 I would like to close my statement with a  
17 quote from the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these  
18 truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal,  
19 that they are endowed by their Creator with certain  
20 inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and  
21 the pursuit of Happiness."

22 I think you've heard a lot of happiness  
23 stories tonight. Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Wheeler -- excuse me.

1 Yes, Ms. Wheeler. Thank you. Charles Wheeler.

2 (Witness sworn.)

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. Please state  
4 and spell your name for the court reporter, and then you  
5 may give your testimony.

6 MR. WHEELER: My name is Charles Wheeler,  
7 C-h-a-r-l-e-s W-h-e-e-l-e-r. I'm here tonight in two  
8 roles.

9 First, I'm the vice president of the  
10 Adair-Schuyler County Farm Bureaus. As a member  
11 organization consisting of more than 275 members in  
12 Schuyler County, we would like to state that we are  
13 unanimously opposed to the Mark Twain Transmission Project.  
14 The reasons are varied, and many of them are being voiced  
15 here this evening. We believe that all of these reasons  
16 are valid reasons for not allowing this project, and we  
17 welcome your consideration to that fact.

18 On a personal level as a landowner, I have  
19 concerns as many have voiced already of environmental  
20 impact, specifically erosion on my land due to destroying  
21 established trees and grass on highly erodible soils; the  
22 impact of easements on CRP ground and maintenance; health  
23 and safety of working around these lines; and the  
24 limitations that these lines are going to impose on us in  
25 the future. Thank you.

1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Wheeler, thank you. Andy  
2 Canopy.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. Please state  
5 and spell your name for the court reporter, and then you  
6 may give your testimony.

7 MR. CANOPY: Andy Canopy, A-n-d-y C-a-n-o-p-y.  
8 I'm an engineer. Let me disclose that Ameren is a client  
9 of ours, not for this project but for other projects. My  
10 experience and observation with Ameren shows that they take  
11 the responsibilities for environmental stewardship  
12 seriously. They meet or exceed their commitments made to  
13 affected landowners. In addition to the construction jobs  
14 mentioned earlier, the engineering design services will  
15 bring revenue to the area, in our estimate, approximately  
16 20,000 to 30,000 man-hours. Thank you.

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Canopy, thank you. Jean  
18 Sidwell.

19 (Witness sworn.)

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you so much. Please  
21 state and spell your name for the court reporter, and then  
22 you may give your testimony.

23 MS. SIDWELL: Yes, my name is Jean, J-e-a-n,  
24 Sidwell, S-i-d-w-e-l-l. First of all, I want to thank the  
25 members of the Public Service Commission for the

1 opportunity to testify for this proposed unnecessary Mark  
2 Twain Transmission Project. I, too, am a trustee of the  
3 Johns Family Trust. My brother and sister-in-law have  
4 already been up here testifying, but I would like to  
5 testify also on behalf of myself and our other family  
6 members.

7 My father, Bill Johns, was a World War II  
8 veteran and he devoted over 50 years of his life to this  
9 property. My parents and their family of eight children  
10 labored to provide a living by growing food for Missouri  
11 citizens and for our nation. The power line that Ameren  
12 proposed cuts diagonally across my father's best farmland.

13 When we were invited to one of the Ameren  
14 meetings to look at where the proposed line would go across  
15 our property, the edge of the easement of the power line on  
16 their map that they provided was located within 50 feet of  
17 the farmhouse where a four-year-old and her parents were  
18 living. The representative, Ameren representative, was not  
19 even aware at this time that that was -- that that building  
20 was the farmhouse. Studies have indicated that there is a  
21 connection between the exposure of high voltage power lines  
22 and childhood leukemia.

23 I also believe that this project will violate  
24 our Missouri Right to Farm laws and devalue our Missouri  
25 farmland. Studies have indicated that the reduction in

1 property values could be as great as 50 percent.

2 Five Missouri counties, including ours, have  
3 issued resolutions indicating that they are opposed to this  
4 project. Ameren has indicated that they intend to ignore  
5 these resolutions. They have repeatedly stated that they  
6 intend to use the power of eminent domain to run over our  
7 Missouri citizens. Please help protect us from this  
8 unnecessary power line that will result in more harm than  
9 benefits to Missouri citizens.

10 (Applause.)

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Sidwell, thank you.  
12 Victoria Albright.

13 MS. ALBRIGHT: I request an affirmation.

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Certainly.

15 (Witness affirmed.)

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you so much. Please  
17 state and spell your name for the court reporter, and then  
18 you may give your testimony.

19 MS. ALBRIGHT: My name is Victoria Albright,  
20 V-i-c-t-o-r-i-a A-l-b-r-i-g-h-t. Eight years ago I moved  
21 to northeast Missouri to be close to my daughter and her  
22 husband when they bought a farm on Frontier Lane in Adair  
23 County. They have two young daughters, and other families  
24 along the proposed route of the high voltage power line  
25 also have young children. In fact, my granddaughter and

1 another seven-year-old attend a cooperative home school  
2 operation that will be a thousand feet from the power line.

3 I'm here as a public health professional, a  
4 grandmother, and a concerned member of the community to  
5 speak for the families with young children, those already  
6 born and those who will be born over the coming decades.  
7 If the proposed power line is built along this route, those  
8 children will grow up with a significantly higher risk of  
9 developing childhood leukemia and other problems than their  
10 peers.

11 Although not all medical research agrees with  
12 that conclusion, Dr. David Carpenter, Dean of the School of  
13 Public Health in New York, states that up to 30 percent of  
14 all childhood cancers come from high exposure to high power  
15 -- high voltage power lines. And the California Department  
16 of Health concluded that EMFs were responsible for an  
17 increase in childhood leukemia, adult brain cancer, Lou  
18 Gehrig's disease, and miscarriage.

19 So although not all medical research supports  
20 the same conclusions, that's the case in almost every  
21 field. The fact remains that many of these epidemiological  
22 studies specifically link high voltage power lines to brain  
23 tumors, leukemia, birth defects, and lymphoma. This is a  
24 risk we cannot take with our children. I urge the  
25 Commissioners to protect the health of our children and



1 deny Ameren's request to build the high voltage power line  
2 through northeast Missouri. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Albright, thank you.  
5 Stephen Byers.

6 (Witness sworn.)

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. Please state  
8 and spell your name for the court reporter, and then you  
9 may testify.

10 MR. BYERS: Stephen Byers, S-t-e-p-h-e-n  
11 B-y-e-r-s. I'd like to donate my time to Julia Jack-Scott,  
12 the next speaker.

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Very good. Thank you, sir.  
14 Julia Jack-Scott.

15 (Witness sworn.)

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Please state and  
17 spell your name for the court reporter, and then you may  
18 testify.

19 MS. JACK-SCOTT: My name is Julia Jack-Scott.  
20 That's J-u-l-i-a J-a-c-k hyphen S-c-o-t-t. I'm a landowner  
21 in Adair County.

22 I would like to speak about two things that  
23 are very precious to me that have been weighing on my mind  
24 and heart. The first is the house that my husband and I  
25 have been building for the past four years. We bought 20

1 acres of land and have been building our dream home out of  
2 natural materials like straw bales and a timber frame  
3 selectively cut from our timber forest. We have built our  
4 house entirely ourselves, and we are a month away from  
5 moving in.

6           We have learned a lot of things in the process  
7 of building our house. For example, what happens when you  
8 dig a hole into Missouri ground. Right below a thin layer  
9 of fertile topsoil, you hit solid clay.

10           What happens when you remove 37 cubic yards of  
11 clay from a foundation hole? You have a small mountain of  
12 clay, 15 feet high, sitting on top of your fertile topsoil.  
13 What do you do with it then? We made a terraced patio next  
14 to our house with ours, but I imagine the farmers in this  
15 room wouldn't appreciate a terraced patio in the middle of  
16 their fields.

17           The farmers here can tell you what will happen  
18 if you spread out that clay with heavy machinery:  
19 compaction and a deadpan layer that prevents water  
20 percolation and crop growth. It takes years to undo damage  
21 like that.

22           My husband and I made the decision to be off  
23 the grid entirely with our house, so we have solar panels  
24 for electricity and rain water catchment for our water.  
25 This decision was motivated by the fact that the electrical

1 grid and water main do not extend to our land and we didn't  
2 want a line of trees cut to extend it to us.

3 Although living off the grid may seem like a  
4 radical thing to do, in this part of Missouri it's not  
5 unusual. Nine out of eleven houses on my road are off the  
6 grid, whether because they are Amish or running on  
7 alternative energy like us.

8 Is it fair to ask off-the-grid communities to  
9 shoulder the burden of a 345,000 volt line on their land?  
10 Home or community scale solar and wind are viable energy  
11 alternatives that cost a fraction of what a transmission  
12 line would cost and put that power in the hands of people  
13 and communities instead of corporations.

14 In addition to our house, my husband and I  
15 have planted seeds for a future we hope to have living off  
16 of the land. We had a pond dug and we planted an orchard  
17 of fruit and nut trees. We put in gardens. We have  
18 planted hundreds of trees altogether. We have plans to  
19 start a small honey farm with honey bees, hoping to  
20 pollinate the orchard and wild flowers that surround our  
21 land.

22 Then we received a letter from ATXI stating  
23 their intentions to run a transmission line just north of  
24 our property. In one corner, the line will be 75 feet from  
25 our woods, clear-cutting our neighbor's woods right up to

1 the first tree on our land. Because our acreage is small,  
2 this means that we will be living right next to a 345,000  
3 volt line and not seeing a penny in compensation for it.

4 This means we cannot have bees and a honey  
5 farm because the electromagnetic field from a high voltage  
6 line scrambles their navigation senses and leads to colony  
7 collapse disorder. This means our plans for farming income  
8 from honey are on hold.

9 Our neighbor to the north owns a beautiful  
10 piece of land that is currently in CRP. She is an elderly  
11 woman who is not able to understand what ATXI was proposing  
12 to do with her land when I called to try to explain it to  
13 her. She will owe money to the CR Program for breaking  
14 contract with them if she signs any easement agreement with  
15 ATXI.

16 Will she be able to understand what is going  
17 on then? The proposed route runs diagonally through her  
18 land and would clear-cut some beautiful old hardwood forest  
19 and crosses through a biodiverse marshy creek area.

20 Our house would be 900 feet from the line if  
21 it goes through, and that brings me to the second precious  
22 thing that I feel is threatened by this proposed line; that  
23 is, the baby I carry inside of me. When we found out about  
24 the line, my husband and I were concerned since a year ago  
25 we had plans to start our family. When I talked to the

1 ATXI health representative at the open house, she laughed  
2 off my concerns, putting them down with a statement, There  
3 are no proven health effects, acting as if I was ridiculous  
4 to even be concerned.

5 Our Neighbors United group decided to form a  
6 committee to research health impacts. It may not surprise  
7 you to know that this volunteer committee was entirely  
8 composed of mothers, most with health backgrounds. We  
9 decided to not just read what could be found online but to  
10 pull studies through A.T. Still University's medical  
11 library.

12 Medical studies are not the latest reading,  
13 but I read all the ones we found. They pointed again and  
14 again to findings of increased rates of a form of cancer,  
15 leukemia, in young children living near high voltage  
16 transmission lines like this one. They said that there  
17 needs to be more research conducted on this issue, but the  
18 pattern of childhood cancer is disturbing and noteworthy,  
19 up to a 70 percent increased rate.

20 The World Health Organization also released a  
21 multiple hundred page publication synthesizing all research  
22 conducted on the health effects of EMFs. I read all of  
23 that as well. It also points to the increased risk of  
24 leukemia in children living near high voltage lines. They  
25 mentioned the International Agency for Research on Cancer's

1 classification of EMFs from high voltage lines as a  
2 possible carcinogen. This is the same classification that  
3 IARC gives cigarettes because of their link to lung cancer.  
4 They are both possible carcinogens.

5           It would be easier to brush off these studies'  
6 findings and classifications as inconclusive, but I don't  
7 have the same luxury as the ATXI representative who laughed  
8 at my concerns. I have a baby growing inside of me. So  
9 the question that keeps me up night after night is, Do I  
10 raise a child in close proximity to a high voltage line or  
11 do we leave the house that we worked so hard to build and  
12 the trees and the gardens we have planted and all of our  
13 dreams for a life on our land so that we will never have to  
14 hold a sick child, regretting we made the wrong decision?

15           I know we are not alone in our fears. Within  
16 one mile of us, there are nine children, all being home  
17 schooled. The closest four are living within several  
18 hundred feet of the proposed line. I know this same  
19 decision keeps their parents up nights worrying, too.  
20 There are many, many children living near this proposed  
21 line. It is incredibly unfair for us to be put in this  
22 position.

23           Dr. Dennis Smith said it best when he said,  
24 "No one should be forced to expose their family to  
25 something they fear on the land that they privately own and

1 have toiled to earn."

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. JACK-SCOTT: We thought if we explained to  
4 the ATXI reps how close the transmission line came to the  
5 homes of children, they would take action to re-route the  
6 line a safe distance away. After all, they keep telling us  
7 that if we work with them, they would make changes to the  
8 route. But we were wrong.

9 We submitted our information at their computer  
10 stations and asked them to go around our homes and farms,  
11 but nothing changed. We suggested alternatives, running  
12 the line along rarely used highways or along land they  
13 already own, but they made excuses. It is a choice they  
14 seem to have already made, the shortest distance between  
15 points A and B, no matter how many farms are impacted or  
16 how close to homes.

17 The disregard for our concerns has not ended  
18 there. At open houses, ATXI shuffled us through their  
19 stations, telling us their propaganda. For example, that  
20 our property values could increase. Contrast that to the  
21 reality of my neighbor, Brent Coursey, who for the last  
22 year has been trying to sell his beautiful home and land  
23 with orchards, pasture, and woods. His last three  
24 interested buyers have all backed out at the last minute  
25 after they have learned about the potential of this

1 transmission line crossing through his land. That is the  
2 reality we are facing.

3 ATXI has lied about tax revenue from this  
4 line. They went on local news stations reporting inflated  
5 sums of money that our counties will receive in tax revenue  
6 from this line and then immediately afterward privately  
7 admitted to county commissioners that the revenue amounts  
8 will be much lower. How much lower than that will the  
9 actual sums be? And what is it worth to get money for our  
10 schools if even one child gets leukemia because of the  
11 line?

12 ATXI's PR campaign keeps promising hundreds of  
13 jobs and energy reliability for Missouri, but read the fine  
14 print and you will see that they only hire union workers.  
15 How many union workers do we have in northeast Missouri? I  
16 don't think there are any. These jobs, probably far less  
17 in number, will be coming from out of state or from big  
18 cities. There will be little economic benefit to our local  
19 economies.

20 And energy reliability, Ameren EU's president  
21 already stated during a public question and answer period  
22 that Missouri doesn't need the energy from this line. That  
23 is before he was hushed up by ATXI and he retracted his  
24 statement.

25 The simple fact of the matter is that Ameren



1 can make a higher rate of profit by building transmission  
2 line, pure and simple. That is why this line is in  
3 process, not because the energy is needed, not because of  
4 jobs. This line is not in the public interest and  
5 certainly not in the interest of my family. It is in  
6 Ameren's shareholders' interest. Unfortunately, our lives  
7 and livelihoods hang in the balance of this decision. We  
8 ask you to give us fair consideration in your decision.  
9 Please deny ATXI their certificate for convenience and  
10 necessity. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you for your testimony.  
13 The next witness is Keith Kerby.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. Please state  
16 and spell your name for the court reporter, and then you  
17 may testify.

18 MR. KERBY: Keith Kerby, K-e-i-t-h K-e-r-b-y.  
19 This morning my wife and I were sitting at our kitchen  
20 table looking out our windows to the west, and there's some  
21 tree-covered hills there that we always enjoy. In the  
22 springtime, we judge when the leaves come out. In the  
23 fall, we enjoy the colors. So hold that thought a minute.

24 On the west side of my property is a Missouri  
25 Ameren transmission line. It runs from -- it starts into

1 Iowa, but it starts at the Missouri-Iowa border and runs to  
2 Kirksville to Missouri in the area of Kirksville, Missouri,  
3 and the engineers who picked that route understood the  
4 concept of the shortest distance between points -- two  
5 points is a straight line.

6 Now, Ameren Illinois is also starting at the  
7 Iowa line and parallels the Missouri transmission line, but  
8 about four miles south of that line, they decide to go turn  
9 to the southeast, and as a result of that, they come  
10 through my farm and through those trees that we greatly  
11 enjoy, and all of those will be destroyed.

12 It continues on through my meadows and my land  
13 that we farm and some CRP land. This also runs relatively  
14 close to our house, and my wife has a heart problem, has a  
15 defibrillator. We're afraid it might interfere with that.  
16 So, I believe that's all I have to say. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right, Mr. Kerby, thank  
19 you. The next name I believe is Tandy Hawkins. I believe  
20 I'm reading that correctly.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. Please state  
23 and spell your name for the court reporter, and then you  
24 may testify.

25 MR. HAWKINS: My name is Tandy Hawkins,

1 T-a-n-d-y, Hawkins, H-a-w-k-i-n-s. I might mention I'm  
2 here to speak -- I was at the Shelby County meeting, but I  
3 have a different -- I talked more on health last time.  
4 Today I need to talk on economics on how it affects our  
5 farm, and I have a brother that could not be here because  
6 of sickness at the Shelby County meeting and he's on a trip  
7 to a conference out east this week, so I might need a few  
8 extra minutes to take care of that.

9 First of all, as I stand here listening  
10 tonight, we are hearing a few pro things for the Ameren  
11 folks, specifically the gentleman from Centralia who works  
12 for them and has a lot of employees. Also, there are  
13 contractors here that have jobs that they can earn money  
14 from from working for Ameren.

15 Now, I can't help -- as I sit here, I can't  
16 help but believe that there are -- I've heard that there  
17 are other possibilities to get power across Missouri  
18 besides this Ameren line. In other words, there are  
19 existing 161's and there's also right of ways that already  
20 are owned or used by the power companies, and it is my  
21 belief that these things could be used and it would  
22 stimulate the jobs for those who need it. It would not  
23 hurt and maim so many farms and families across this great  
24 state. So I want to mention that as a possibility.

25 And as it adds jobs for those for a short one

1 or two-year period of time, it is also going to take jobs  
2 away from us as Missourians who farm because we can't do  
3 what we were planning to do with our farms.

4 At the Shelby County meeting, there were many  
5 people who spoke on the effects of this wide equipment,  
6 GPS, things like that, that it had affected on their row  
7 crop farms. Now, I'm a row crop farmer. It affects a lot  
8 of acres up and down the roads. Now, we don't have all  
9 that GPS stuff yet. We'd like to, but we can't afford it  
10 all at one time. However, it still does affect us directly  
11 as would occur in this particular year, so I want to read  
12 what I had wrote to -- and my son worked on here last  
13 night.

14 We raise crops, cattle, and hogs under  
15 Ameren's proposed location for the 345,000 volt Mark Twain  
16 Transmission Line in Shelby County, Missouri. In years of  
17 high rain and humidity, additional nitrogen and/or  
18 fungicide can be flown on crops to make up for adverse  
19 weather impact. In 2015, a 40 to 50 dollar investment in  
20 aerial nitrogen application yielded a 15 to 30 bushel yield  
21 increase on corn in Shelby County.

22 At \$4.50 a bushel, it takes approximately 10  
23 bushels per acre yield increase to break even with  
24 expenses. Yield increases of 15 to 30 bushels per acre are  
25 not uncommon. This leaves a 5 to 20 bushel profit above

1 variable costs or \$22.50 to \$90 per acre lost profit  
2 because of the Mark Twain Ameren Transmission Line if it  
3 would go through.

4 This loss extends beyond the line itself to  
5 include a substantial acreage in the no fly zone, a minimum  
6 of eight to ten acres, or on a one-quarter to a half-mile  
7 long tract, you know, and if it's a quarter by quarter mile  
8 tract or 40 acres, and if it crosses diagonally instead of  
9 perpendicularly, it may exclude aerial application on most  
10 of the field, thus costing the farmer much more.

11 The aerial applicator may not think that it is  
12 feasible to fly to our farm for a small, divided field, and  
13 even if they did -- we thought about this afterwards -- it  
14 may -- they'll put our field off till the last minute  
15 because they want to do the easy acres first, and those  
16 easy acres going on first may make mine be put on so late  
17 that it isn't as useful as to the larger, other acreages.

18 So on the straight line tract, it could cost  
19 \$900 a year. On the 40-acre diagonal type line, it may  
20 cost \$3,600 per year, and this is every year for the  
21 foreseeable future. Okay. Then -- so this is a great  
22 cost. This isn't counting GPS and all those other things.

23 Now I have another part here. The lost profit  
24 potential for a 345 kilovolts is very large for our  
25 outdoor, antibiotic-free natural pork farm. Outdoor

1 natural pork production systems and rotational grazing  
2 systems for cattle are more complicated than many realize.  
3 Perhaps that is why so few do it. They involve reliable  
4 electric fence, alleys, and water systems to maintain high  
5 production for profit.

6 We currently have three electric fences on  
7 site with at least a total of 12 planned across these  
8 tracts where Ameren plans to route their lines. We need to  
9 expand our livestock operation because I have a son that  
10 has come back to farm from the University of Missouri in  
11 2012. We finally purchased this farm from our family so  
12 that we are free to go ahead and do these things that we've  
13 been planning for years.

14 And here's an example of our lost profit  
15 potential: Because of our outdoor farrowing systems and  
16 the use of hoop buildings, we have lots of little  
17 individual houses that were planned to be put right in this  
18 area, right where Ameren wants to go across, right across  
19 the ridge top of our farm where it's most ideally suited  
20 for our livestock; and so if we can't do this, then that  
21 means that we will lose the profit potential of  
22 approximately 1,200 hogs raised per year.

23 We've made a \$50 profit per year on our hogs  
24 this year. Part of the year it's greater than that and  
25 part of the year it's just that amount, but that 1,200

1 dollars of -- of hogs times \$50 per hog profit is \$60,000  
2 annually that we will stand to lose, and this is so much  
3 higher than even irrigation farms that you folks want to go  
4 around.

5 Also, we have probably the replacement of  
6 fence charges which could be -- on several tracts, this  
7 could be \$1,500 annually because our electric fence  
8 companies have told us that we will have chargers hurt  
9 because of these Ameren lines. I've checked with them  
10 personally, one of them out of Boonville, Missouri with  
11 Tru-Test. They sell others, too.

12 Also, I have -- it's going to make more  
13 management time because I have an employee that already has  
14 a pacemaker, and he says if Ameren comes through and he has  
15 to work underneath those lines, he will look for another  
16 job.

17 And so I am just trying to remind you all that  
18 this is a cost for us as Missouri farmers that is going to  
19 go on for many, many years, yet they -- they can talk about  
20 the jobs they'll help create for a while, but they will be  
21 helped if they -- if Ameren or someone else can use these  
22 existing power lines that are already here. I drove right  
23 under a 161 today coming up here, and they'll have to be  
24 upgraded sometime because they're going to rot down. So  
25 why not use them anyway?

1           Also, I -- this has already been a detriment  
2 for me and my family already. We've spent lots of time  
3 fighting this, learning about this already. It's hurting  
4 us terribly already, and so I'm just reminding everyone  
5 that I wish we could work together, use what's already  
6 there. Yeah, we might lose a little funny money from  
7 Washington DC because of all the tax credits and problems,  
8 and this is going on across our entire country and we need  
9 to get past that.

10           So anyway, this is my thoughts, and I am  
11 praying that we can get together on all these things and  
12 get this power where it needs to be without hurting so many  
13 people. Thank you for your time. We appreciate it.

14           (Applause.)

15           MR. HAWKINS: Also, I have a couple of things  
16 to give to them. I have letters that I wrote to Ameren  
17 back at Newark time. They told us it would help if we  
18 would write. We did. They went right ahead and sent it  
19 right through where they were going to anyway. It's my  
20 belief they already had that southern route picked out a  
21 long time ago, but I'm going to send this for you folks to  
22 read to prove my thought pattern on this.

23           (Applause.)

24           MR. HAWKINS: Also, we've been talking about  
25 the valuation of farms. Here's a study that my son looked



1 up months ago that talks about how this not only affects  
2 the little sliver of land that this line is going to go  
3 under but the entire farm, and that's what we're hearing  
4 over and over again here tonight, so I'm going to hand this  
5 to you to share. And maybe you have access to all of this  
6 already, but I want to share it anyway. Thank you.

7 (Appl ause.)

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: You could just hand those to  
9 the court reporter, please. And that was a letter and a  
10 study; is that correct?

11 MR. HAWKINS: Yes, a study and also two  
12 personal letters stapled together that we have personally  
13 written to Ameren months ago.

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. we'll  
15 just label the letters as Exhibit 3 and the study as  
16 Exhibit 4, please.

17 (Exhibit 3 and Exhibit 4 were marked for  
18 identification.)

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And the next witness is  
20 Margaret Hollenbeck.

21 MS. HOLLENBECK: Can I be affirmed, please?

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Sure.

23 (Witness affirmed.)

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Please state your  
25 name and spell it for the record, and then you may give

1 your testimony.

2 MS. HOLLENBECK: My name is Margaret  
3 Hollenbeck, M-a-r-g-a-r-e-t H-o-l-l-e-n-b-e-c-k. I'm here  
4 not only as a landowner but as a diversified farming  
5 occupation. My husband and I are commercial beekeepers in  
6 this area. We are the largest in northeast Missouri. We  
7 have been producing honey -- well, my husband started back  
8 in 1973. We have been producing commercially for over 30  
9 years.

10 These high voltage lines will affect our bees  
11 in several counties in the area. We have several farmers  
12 that allow us to put our hives in this area that do run  
13 close to the line.

14 Not only does it affect our bees, but it also  
15 affects the farmers because our bees are no longer able to  
16 pollinate their crops. Pollination is very important for  
17 not only row crops but the grasses and hay also.

18 Bees, they navigate under magnetic fields that  
19 naturally occur in nature. There's magnetic forces in  
20 nature, but whenever you add the EMFs of these high voltage  
21 lines, it does confuse them. Therefore, they get lost,  
22 unable to pollinate the crops, unable to produce honey for  
23 us, which we supply to not only Missourians, but all across  
24 the country.

25 We sell honey all over the country. We sell

1 in Illinois at some of their local grocery stores in  
2 Illinois, Missouri, not to mention all the bulk honey that  
3 goes anywhere from Texas to New Mexico. We -- I mean, we  
4 send it all over the place.

5 This will decrease our operation drastically  
6 because it will reduce the places we can put our hives, not  
7 to mention the proximity of the lines and it's going to --  
8 you can't have hives on one side and expect them to get  
9 pollination on the other side because the bees just cannot  
10 navigate. I mean, we're -- I'm not just up here saying  
11 this for somebody -- some layperson who just thinks she  
12 knows what she's talking about. My husband has researched,  
13 researched this drastically.

14 We have experienced some bees underneath low  
15 voltage lines and seen how it affects them. And the low  
16 voltage lines affects them to a certain degree, not to  
17 mention how these high voltage lines will affect them.

18 I mean, it also affects my family farm who's  
19 been in the family for over a hundred years. My nephew's  
20 now farming this. Several generations. We're talking  
21 about supporting the young farmers coming up, but yet we  
22 want to take their land for these unnecessary high voltage  
23 lines, send the power to the East Coast where they don't  
24 want it anyway.

25 I mean, like they said earlier, these farmers

1 aren't even getting any use of the electricity. They are  
2 required to change their farming operations, lose heritage  
3 trees. We brought up heritage trees that are on this farm  
4 my nephew farms. Their route still goes right over our  
5 heritage trees. These river hickory nuts that don't grow  
6 anymore, they want to cut them down so that they can put  
7 power lines through.

8           Go across creek bottoms, cut the trees along  
9 the creek bottoms. I've seen what happens whenever you cut  
10 trees along the creeks. It washes. I've seen a road  
11 almost totally lost because they come in and cut the power  
12 -- I mean, cut the trees along the creek bottoms, keeps the  
13 dirt where it belongs instead of washing it down the river,  
14 and that's why we've got all these -- the water levels  
15 rising in all these areas is because the dirt washes out of  
16 the fields. This is just going to cause more erosion.

17           I know they say, Well, we're going to fix  
18 that. We're going to take care of that. But, you know,  
19 they cannot replace hundred-year-old trees. They cannot  
20 replace hard woods that you just can't grow anymore. I  
21 mean, they can't replace them once they've been cut down.

22           I mean, this -- it affects us not only in our  
23 business but in our personal life, too, and I just ask that  
24 they do not -- that you do not grant them a certificate of  
25 convenience because this company is from Illinois, owned by

1 a for-profit.

2 (Applause.)

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you, ma'am.  
4 Larry Schweitzer.

5 (Witness sworn.)

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. If you  
7 would, please, state and spell your name for the court  
8 reporter.

9 MR. SCHWEITZER: Larry Schweitzer,  
10 S-c-h-w-e-i-t-z-e-r. I'm a 40-year veteran in the power  
11 delivery business. I started as a lineman and worked my  
12 way up through management. I also was raised on a farm in  
13 North Dakota, farmed underneath a 230 line. To be honest  
14 with you, I never gave it much thought. It wasn't a big  
15 deal to farm around the structures we had on our property.

16 We are an electrical contractor and we're a  
17 union contractor and so I support the Mark Twain project  
18 for these reasons: Number one, they do provide good jobs.  
19 Our company has been in this area between Iowa, Missouri,  
20 Illinois for 60, 70 years and have produced thousands of  
21 jobs over the years. These are not just regular jobs.  
22 These are good-paying jobs. These are high-benefit jobs.

23 It definitely impacts the local economy. I've  
24 witnessed it many, many times. I've witnessed it as a  
25 lineman. I witness it on every project we do. We buy fuel

1 locally. We buy parts from the local NAPA stores and the  
2 various Carquests and various other parts stores. We buy  
3 -- our people stay in hotels. They buy their food here.  
4 They spend their money.

5 Many times if they're working on a job like  
6 this, it's not unusual to work six tens, so they won't be  
7 traveling home. They'll be here on the weekends, and so  
8 they will stay here weekends and they will spend their  
9 money throughout the weekend. But there's just a numerous  
10 trickle down effect from these workers working in your  
11 area.

12 The tax revenue, I can tell you, Judge, even  
13 Ameren can't avoid paying taxes. Twenty-three years of  
14 Florida power, I know that the Public Service Commission  
15 has auditors and they will know what the cost of this  
16 project is, know the exact value of this line and, of  
17 course, the value, the property taxes that go against that  
18 cost. They will know exactly how much money that's going  
19 to be paid to the counties -- various counties.

20 How that's divvied up? The gentleman  
21 mentioned the school board. I don't know how they divvy it  
22 up. I know they divvy it up in other states and the areas.  
23 But they will not be able to avoid paying revenue, and  
24 there have been estimates that I've heard as much as  
25 \$500,000 per county.

1           Renewable energy. This will provide access to  
2 Missouri for renewable energy. It's an important thing,  
3 but it's important because of the fact it adds to the  
4 generation mix. I think everybody in this room who has a  
5 IRA, a 401(k), any type of portfolio recognizes you don't  
6 put all your eggs in one basket, and so if you rely  
7 everything on nuclear, if you have a problem, you've got a  
8 big problem. If you are rely on all natural gas, you could  
9 have a problem. So adding renewables to the mix of  
10 generation -- you can't get generation without transmission  
11 to the mix -- creates a level and balanced portfolio which  
12 helps all citizens of Missouri when they pay their electric  
13 bills.

14           I've heard a lot of talk about EMF tonight. I  
15 won't consider myself an expert, but I will tell you I was  
16 the director of transmission when one of the very first  
17 projects that caught the public's eye on EMF was in North  
18 Tampa for my -- the company I worked for, and the data  
19 started with a study that has been refuted by numerous  
20 countries in Europe and many agencies, including the EPA  
21 here in the United States. So like I said, I know a lot of  
22 people who live around power lines. I've lived near them.  
23 I've not seen the effects.

24           They have done studies on utility workers who,  
25 as you know, if you're a lineman your entire career, you're

1 working in magnetic fields every day, and so they've  
2 studied retired and people who had passed away to see what  
3 -- you know, to find a correlation. There was no  
4 correlation. There should have been if, in fact, there was  
5 any fact to that.

6 So that's all I have to say. Again, I thank  
7 you and I ask for your support for this project.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Schweitzer, thank you.  
9 Annette Sweet.

10 (Witness sworn.)

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. Please  
12 state and spell your name for the court reporter, and then  
13 you may testify.

14 MS. SWEET: Annette, A-n-n-e-t-t-e, last name  
15 Sweet, S-w-e-e-t. Okay. I just wanted to talk -- I'm in  
16 support of the project. I'm an area property owner in  
17 Adair County. I spend a lot of personal time volunteering  
18 in economic development efforts, and I'm a local utility  
19 employee. Whether or not this line gets built does not  
20 affect my job one way or another. I don't work for Ameren  
21 Transmission, but I do feel like a lot of people talk to me  
22 about it and I feel like I need to speak out.

23 The line obviously has a number of important  
24 benefits, like the access to different power sources, jobs,  
25 tax revenue, et cetera, but like highway expansions like



1 the bypass that was put in a few years ago, these  
2 infrastructure improvements are just terribly painful for  
3 those whose property is directly affected, so I have a lot  
4 of sympathy for that, and I hope something can be worked  
5 out where people can get the line to be as least intrusive  
6 as possible.

7 But I also wanted to point out that between  
8 Northeast Power Cooperative and Ameren, there are three  
9 high voltage transmission lines already in northeast  
10 Missouri and we don't have issues with them, health issues  
11 or whatever, and they've been there for 40 years or more.

12 A few years ago there was a wind farm -- or,  
13 well, there were three different wind farm projects that  
14 came up right in this immediate area -- Schuyler, Putnam,  
15 Scotland, Adair, Sullivan -- and those projects, at the  
16 time a lot of the same officials were very supportive of  
17 those and they didn't seem concerned at all about the  
18 transmission lines that would have been built with those  
19 projects. I'm aware of them because my property was one  
20 that they came to talk to me about getting a transmission  
21 line across the property, so I understand somewhat, you  
22 know, that it's not too exciting when you hear that.

23 But anyway, the transmission -- I mean, the  
24 wind projects kind of fell apart gradually for various  
25 reasons, but one of the major reasons was the lack of

1 transmission line capacity and they would not be able to  
2 put the power out on the grid to sell for a higher price,  
3 you know, to another location besides just the immediate  
4 area.

5 Then also because I'm a utility employee, I  
6 get a lot of people talk to me and bring up the topic or  
7 whatever, and I'm surprised there's -- I would say the vast  
8 majority of people who say something to me are either  
9 neutral about the project or in favor of the project  
10 because they think it will be a benefit in the long run,  
11 you know, developmentwise, but you know, they don't want to  
12 speak up or they're intimidated into being part of the  
13 silent majority.

14 So I guess that's the main points I had, but I  
15 thank you for your time.

16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Sweet, thank you. Kaitlyn  
17 Meyer.

18 (Witness sworn.)

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. Please  
20 state and spell your name for the court reporter, and then  
21 give your testimony.

22 MS. MEYER: Kaitlyn, K-a-i-t-l-y-n, Meyer,  
23 M-e-y-e-r, and I'm actually testifying on behalf of Marsha  
24 and Charles Salassa, who couldn't be here tonight. Do you  
25 want me to spell their names? Okay. M-a-r-s-h-a and

1 Charles, C-h-a-r-l-e-s, Salassa, S-a-l-a-s-s-a.

2 To the Public Service Commissioners, I am  
3 opposed to the Mark Twain Transmission Project because of  
4 the potential harm it poses to the health of my parents,  
5 our neighbors, friends, livestock, and wildlife. If it's  
6 not okay to run this line by schools and churches, why  
7 would it be okay to run it by someone's home? Ameren would  
8 not answer questions like this in their open houses, and  
9 during the entire process, they have been rude and  
10 disrespectful towards landowners and homeowners.

11 Ameren has not proven that this project will  
12 benefit Missouri except for the temporary jobs it will  
13 create. I wonder how many agricultural jobs will be lost  
14 because of this transmission line. The harmful side  
15 effects this line will cause will last forever.

16 Tornadoes have frequented this area in the  
17 past several years, and the damage that would occur if  
18 these lines come down would be catastrophic.

19 The destructive impact this transmission line  
20 would have on the local wildlife is disheartening. In the  
21 past few years, there has been a decline in some wildlife  
22 such as quail and pheasants, but recently I've seen an  
23 increase in their numbers on my parents' land. Now their  
24 habitat will be destroyed, and I will no longer see them  
25 flourish on this farm anywhere near this transmission line.

1           How many creatures great and small that we are  
2 not even aware of will be harmed? The honey bees that are  
3 needed for pollinating crops, vegetables, and flowers are  
4 already in danger, and this will greatly reduce their  
5 numbers even more.

6           My father harvests hay to feed his cattle from  
7 these fields but also grazes his cattle in the pastures  
8 that he fertilizes and bush hogs to keep the weeds down. I  
9 fear for his well-being as well as that of his livestock.  
10 I walk through these fields each fall and help him move his  
11 cow herd that have been raised almost entirely on this  
12 farm. What threat will this high voltage transmission line  
13 pose to my health?

14           I may someday inherit this land, and I don't  
15 want to see its productivity and its value decrease. This  
16 project is not in the public's interest and would not be in  
17 the best interest of the state of Missouri.

18           I would like to thank the PSC for their time  
19 and consideration in this matter. I would also like to  
20 thank our state representatives, Nate Walker and Craig  
21 Redmon, and the county commissioners for keeping the public  
22 -- public's interest in mind when they all opposed this  
23 project.

24           (Applause.)

25           JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Meyer, thank you. Jeb

1 Weaver. Mr. Weaver? Mr. Weaver?

2 MR. WEAVER: Yes, sir.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: You're going to be my next  
4 witness after the break. I'm going to give my court  
5 reporter a well-deserved break but wanted you to know I'll  
6 call you at 8:15.

7 MR. WEAVER: Yes, sir.

8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much. We'll be  
9 in recess until 8:15. Thank you.

10 (A recess was taken.)

11 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Let's resume the  
12 hearing. I have Mr. Weaver as the next witness.

13 Mr. Weaver, if you'll come forward to be sworn.

14 Mr. Weaver, I'll swear you in in just a moment.

15 If I could just reiterate, I had a  
16 commissioner who had planned to be here this evening. I  
17 told you her mother was taken ill. Her mother, in fact,  
18 did pass away over the weekend. That is the reason she is  
19 not here. She sends her regrets.

20 We had commissioners in Shelby County. We  
21 will have commissioners in Adair County tomorrow night.  
22 I'm afraid you're stuck with me tonight. I apologize on  
23 behalf of the Commission. Again, obviously the  
24 commissioner could not foresee her mother's passing, and so  
25 otherwise she would have been here and I apologize.

1 (Witness sworn.)

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. Please state  
3 and spell your name for the court reporter, and then you  
4 may give your testimony.

5 MR. WEAVER: Jeb Weaver, J-e-b W-e-a-v-e-r.  
6 My wife and I reside at 15282 Weaver Avenue, Glenwood,  
7 Missouri 63541. Sir, I want to thank you for giving me  
8 that 15 minutes of stress a while ago in making me wait.

9 Anyway, I'm a husband and a father of two and  
10 a grandfather of five, and I'm a veteran of the United  
11 States Army. My son and I, we run a 500 head cow-calf  
12 operation. The proposed line runs diagonal through our  
13 weaning pasture, our feed lot, which will be affected. It  
14 runs also directly over a cattle forking facility, through  
15 the killing pasture, and destroying part of the timber that  
16 the cows use during adverse weather conditions.

17 Now, the Ameren's term fair market value is  
18 what they want to compensate us for: fair market value for  
19 our land. That needs to be changed to what is acceptable  
20 collateral damage. Tell me what's acceptable collateral  
21 damage when they destroy your property, when you have poor  
22 breed back on your cow herd or stillborn calves, when you  
23 have nonperformance in your cattle, they don't gain weight,  
24 and this is -- you have an increase in sickness. This is  
25 not fiction. This is fact.

1           There's been a lawsuit filed and won in the  
2 state of Minnesota and the judge awarded that farm family  
3 \$6.3 million in damages over the loss of his cattle, and in  
4 that it said the electric current can course through the  
5 metal on your farm, including through water troughs. This  
6 can lead to cows not drinking enough water, not eating  
7 enough food, and a reduction in milk production as a result  
8 according to a 2009 publication produced by the University  
9 of Wisconsin at Madison. Stray voltage can also cause the  
10 animals to produce a stress hormone decreasing the ability  
11 to fight infection.

12           My grandson, Brody Jeb Weaver, when not in  
13 school or playing sports, he helps his dad and I who work  
14 side by side working the livestock, working the cattle.  
15 Studies have shown that children living within 600 feet of  
16 this high transmission line can get leukemia, and those  
17 that live farther away are less likely to get that. So  
18 tell me. What is the acceptable collateral damage for  
19 that? There's not any. There's not enough money on God's  
20 green earth that can replace that.

21           (Applause.)

22           MR. WEAVER: The second point on the necessity  
23 of this line, it runs diagonal through everybody's  
24 farmland. Four miles directly straight west of here,  
25 there's 160,000 volt line that Ameren of Missouri owns --

1 okay? -- and as Mr. Kerby says, four miles from the border,  
2 it runs to that line.

3 My wife and I attended two of the public  
4 meetings that Ameren put on. I couldn't get this question  
5 asked. I got it asked, but I couldn't get an answer for  
6 it. I finally got to meet one-on-one with Peggy Ladd, which  
7 is here, and we had a conversation. I said this line runs  
8 diagonal and then runs parallel with this existing line,  
9 and she said it can because of reliability issues.

10 So anyway, I asked her one more question. I  
11 said so tell me ever -- the concern of Palmyra going to the  
12 Iowa line. I said, What happens at the Iowa line? It just  
13 doesn't stop. And she said, My job is to get it from  
14 Palmyra to the Iowa border, and after that it's not my  
15 concern. So I had to dig deeper.

16 Okay. After the Iowa line, it becomes  
17 MidAmerican Energy Company, which is owned by Berkshire  
18 Hathaway, which is Warren Buffett, a very shrewd  
19 businessman. They have 1,715 wind turbines in their state,  
20 and they've got plans to build, I think, 500 more. They're  
21 receiving wind energy tax credits for those turbines, which  
22 I think, as I understand, runs 30 to 50 percent  
23 depreciation the first year and then they get 2.3 cents per  
24 kilowatt hour after they're produced.

25 Okay. Now, if this goes through Missouri,



1 MidAmerican Energy Company -- I call it laying in the weeds  
2 -- they've got a Multi Value Project Number 7, and that  
3 project is -- it entails construction of approximately 20  
4 miles of 345,000 kV rebuilding the existing 160 kV  
5 transmission line, which goes through Appanoose, Davis, and  
6 Wappelo counties in Iowa to the Ottumwa, Iowa coal-fired  
7 power plant. Coal-fired. Fossil burning. That's what's  
8 producing this energy. There's a little-bitty feeder line  
9 of wind energy to that.

10 I want to shake the electrical engineer's hand  
11 that can keep the wind energy green -- I'll take my wife's  
12 five minutes, sir -- that can produce the wind energy and  
13 keep it separate from the coal-fired energy and go through  
14 to this line. I don't think they can do it.

15 Anyway, they're going to rebuild that line  
16 from the Iowa line north, and then at the Iowa line it's  
17 going to split. Why? Why not build it all the way?

18 In closing, there's a saying, a motto, amongst  
19 cattlemen and cowboys, and it's this: If it's not right --  
20 no. If it's not yours, don't take it; and if it's not  
21 true, don't say it; and if it's not right, don't do it.  
22 This line isn't right. So, sir, please don't let it  
23 happen. Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Weaver, thank you. The

1 next witness is Debra Leunen. I hope I'm pronouncing that  
2 correctly.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. If you would,  
5 please state and spell your name, and then you may testify.

6 MS. LEUNEN: Debra Leunen, D-e-b-r-a  
7 L-e-u-n-e-n. I live at 19562 Zion Road, Lancaster,  
8 Missouri. I think it's very fitting that this hearing  
9 tonight is so close to Halloween because I've never been so  
10 terrified in all my life.

11 The proposed Mark Twain Transmission Project  
12 scares me to death. I'm afraid of how it's going to affect  
13 the farmers and the landowners in this area. I'm afraid of  
14 what it will do to the wildlife, the natural environment of  
15 northeast Missouri. I'm afraid of what it will do to me,  
16 my husband, my friends, and neighbors here tonight.

17 There are 4,431 people and 1,193 families  
18 residing in Schuyler county. Twenty-five percent of those  
19 are under the age of 18. The other 25 percent are over 65.  
20 The per capita income is \$15,850 per household. Nearly 20  
21 percent of the population is below the poverty level.  
22 Ameren knows we don't have the funds to fight this project.  
23 That's why they're here.

24 The proposed transmission line towers are 20  
25 ton steel monopoles that are 90 to 100 feet tall and will

1 be erected along the right of way roughly 800 feet apart.  
2 At the site of each tower, more than a quarter acre of land  
3 will be bulldozed and leveled and a bore hole will be  
4 drilled into the existing woods, crop ground, or pasture.  
5 Every bore hole is going to be filled with tons of concrete  
6 that will serve as a foundation for a tower.

7 The transmission line begins with a survey for  
8 the right of way access roads. An access road must have  
9 the width and strength necessary to support frequent use by  
10 heavy earth moving equipment, transportation vehicles  
11 carrying heavy loads. In Schuyler County, our existing  
12 infrastructure will not support this.

13 The total area needed for this transmission  
14 area will be clear-cut, bulldozed, and leveled for access  
15 roads. The right of way and most access roads will be  
16 constructed in farmers' fields or pastures. In dry  
17 condition, the soil will suffer from compaction. In wet  
18 conditions, the results will be devastating.

19 You've heard tonight that our soil is mostly  
20 clay and it's without bottom, unsaturated. It will take a  
21 tremendous volume of rock to stabilize those roadways.  
22 That rock will be forced down and out into the field. What  
23 happens to that rock when Ameren is done? Ameren won't be  
24 able to remove it all and it will work to the surface,  
25 probably for decades.

1           They can visually restore the field, but it  
2 will never be the same again. All vegetation will be  
3 cleared from a strip of land that is a hundred miles long  
4 and a hundred feet wide. The clear-cut right of way which  
5 will encompass a total of 55,000 acres will go across  
6 planted fields and pastures that are now predominantly  
7 small farms.

8           This clay soil is subject to severe erosion,  
9 and without vegetation will wash away and silt surrounding  
10 bottom land and watershed. Near my farm, the line is  
11 proposed on top of an existing watershed area consisting of  
12 brush, scrub timber, and a North Fabius River tributary.  
13 Ameren plans to maintain the transmission right of way by  
14 using both herbicides and mechanical means to keep it  
15 completely and perpetually free of trees and brushy growth.

16           Herbicide runoff will contaminate the water in  
17 many creeks and ponds as well as the underground water that  
18 is the sole source of drinking water for the majority of  
19 the area's livestock and rural residents who rely on the  
20 water from private wells. It will spoil the habitat for  
21 fish and other aquatic creatures, including some that are  
22 endangered, threatened, or rare.

23           The herbicide is an aerial application, and  
24 the overspray can drift for hundreds of feet beyond the  
25 right of way. In 1998 and 1999, I was awarded back to back

1 Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)  
2 grants to study multispecies rotational grazing and the use  
3 of goats to control invasive pasture species.

4 At the onset of the study, I produced a grid  
5 inventory of pasture forbes with the help of a couple of  
6 biologists from Missouri State University. Immediately,  
7 the specialists detected widespread herbicide damage  
8 throughout the pasture. There was an existing 161 kilovolt  
9 Ameren transmission line across the farm. Herbicide  
10 application had drifted 1,000 to 1,100 feet from the right  
11 of way.

12 Ameren was instructed by the state to withhold  
13 all aerial application of herbicides to the property. The  
14 machinery brought in to remove the brush consisted of huge  
15 shredders which flung chunks of debris into the surrounding  
16 pasture, and I had to manually remove it before I could  
17 bring equipment in to maintain my pasture. Ameren's  
18 contractors left jagged, protruding stumps that injured my  
19 livestock, punctured tires, and made it dangerous to work  
20 close to the right of way.

21 My current farm is 23 acres. The proposed  
22 transmission line will parallel my east boundary line. It  
23 will only be 300 feet from my house to the right of way.  
24 My husband has cardiomyopathy and he has an implanted  
25 pacemaker and defib. I suffer from a complex medical

1 history that includes a combined autoimmune disorder, renal  
2 failure, and cranial fluid leak.

3           Due to our chronic medical conditions, I don't  
4 think we will be able to stay in our home. The 345,000  
5 volt power line will be a constant source of stress on our  
6 bodies, not only from the electromagnetic fields but from  
7 the corona effect.

8           Severe shock from stray voltage will be a  
9 continual fear on our property, and a single shock could  
10 activate my husband's defib, possibly even kill him.  
11 I've experienced the dangers of stray voltage while  
12 pasturing goats under this existing 161 Ameren transmission  
13 line. After a thunderstorm, I found nine of my breeding  
14 bucklings dead from electrocution. They were spaced over  
15 10 feet apart near a fence running parallel to the  
16 transmission line within the right of way. They were  
17 examined by a veterinarian, and it was determined they were  
18 not struck by lightning. They were killed by lethal  
19 electric shock.

20           I'm terrified of electrocution by stray  
21 voltage. No one should be forced against their will to  
22 expose their family to any entity that they fear on their  
23 property that they toil to purchase and maintain. I do  
24 have a photograph of those dead goats that I'll show you  
25 when I'm finished here.

1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Your five minutes -- you can  
2 continue, but your five minutes are up.

3 MS. LEUNEN: In the event that this project is  
4 approved, Ameren's first steps will include obtaining  
5 rights to the 55 acres -- 55,000 acres of land that the  
6 transmission line will occupy. Virtually all of this land  
7 at present is private property of 270 landowners, and the  
8 majority of them oppose this project.

9 If we do not grant easement, Ameren will seize  
10 the property by eminent domain. Eminent domain was  
11 intended for public interest. The project is opposed by  
12 the majority of all the landowners. All county commissions  
13 from all five affected counties have signed resolutions in  
14 opposition to the proposal.

15 There's no need for this power in the state.  
16 There should be no public sacrifice for a private  
17 corporation to profit from. I'm afraid I'll be forced to  
18 give up my land, and I'm afraid I'll lose control of what  
19 remains.

20 Construction of the transmission line will  
21 impact Missouri wildlife. It will fragment wooded areas.  
22 It will cause loss of habitat for tree dwelling, wetland,  
23 and aquatic species. Loss of habitat will lead to the  
24 demise of some species and failure to thrive for others.

25 I'm particularly concerned about the effects

1 of wildlife in my area because so much vegetation will have  
2 to be cleared. Northeast Missouri is home to the  
3 endangered Indiana bat. The U.S. Wildlife indicated that  
4 every county intersected by the proposed line is known to  
5 be occupied by maternity colonies of these bats.

6 Furthermore, based on past studies, the route passes  
7 through five known maternity colony home ranges. The  
8 proposed Mark Twain Transmission Line could quite possibly  
9 destroy the species.

10 Schuyler County is located in the Central  
11 Migratory Flight Path. Habitat destruction has caused  
12 population decline in many species. Transmission lines are  
13 known to interfere with migration. The effects are so  
14 damaging the National Audubon Society has proposed  
15 legislation to help minimize the impact to birds and other  
16 wildlife. I'm afraid this line will personally destroy the  
17 nature I love.

18 I enjoy the luxury of electrical power, but I  
19 believe in energy efficiency. I believe we need to use  
20 less energy and be more self-reliant. The nation's power  
21 grid is vulnerable and unsustainable. The line will not  
22 lower the cost for Missourians. On the contrary, Ameren  
23 customers have already seen an increase on their power  
24 bills for a project that will not benefit them.

25 You, as a member of the PSC, have the ability



1 to stop this project. I ask for your help in defending our  
2 farm rights and constitutional property rights. I'm  
3 counting on your help. Please deny ATXI franchise. Do not  
4 approve the Mark Twain project. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And will this be Exhibit 5,  
7 Madam Court Reporter?

8 THE REPORTER: Yes.

9 (Exhibit 5 was marked for identification.)

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. The  
11 next witness is Joni Newland.

12 MS. NEWLAND: I do have two other people that  
13 I'm speaking for.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Please state and  
16 spell your name for the court reporter, and then you may  
17 give your testimony.

18 MS. NEWLAND: Joni, J-o-n-i, Newland,  
19 N-e-w-l-a-n-d. And the first one that I have is on behalf  
20 of Florence Shepherd, F-l-o-r-e-n-c-e S-h-e-p-h-e-r-d, and  
21 she is a landowner.

22 The land has been in my family for  
23 approximately one hundred or more years. It is part of the  
24 heritage I had hoped to leave to my children and  
25 grandchildren. There is also a negative economic impact to

1 me due to the loss of rental income while construction, or  
2 more accurately destruction, of the power lines is taking  
3 place.

4 In addition, the renter may no longer choose  
5 to utilize this land for pasture if the lines are allowed  
6 to go through because of the spraying of the area under the  
7 lines and the resulting contamination of the water source  
8 due to the closeness of the transmission lines to the pond  
9 where the cattle get their water.

10 Eminent domain should not be allowed to be  
11 used when it is not in the public interest. The Schuyler  
12 County commissioners as well as commissioners from other  
13 counties have not granted approval for this project in  
14 their county. This line is not in the public interest.  
15 Please deny ATXI's certificate for convenience and  
16 necessity.

17 And I have another statement on behalf of  
18 another landowner who lives out of state: William,  
19 W-i-l-l-i-a-m, Shepherd, S-h-e-p-h-e-r-d.

20 As an affected party to the above petition, I  
21 will add my voice to the objections already raised. The  
22 usurpation of others' land for the furtherance of a private  
23 venture flies in the face of the spirit, if not the letter,  
24 of any eminent domain statute. The need requirement  
25 mandated by the legal proceedings of the subject request

1 appears to be defined by projected increases in power  
2 demand in an area of the country totally divorced from the  
3 landowners specifically affected and the state of Missouri  
4 in general.

5 Casual disregard for collateral damage from a  
6 venture project resulting from the market research for  
7 electrical power sales opportunities should not be ignored  
8 as a major consideration when reviewing and deciding this  
9 request.

10 That there is a market for electrical power  
11 supply is not surprising. However, opportunity for sales  
12 and need are not the same. It is not clear the part of the  
13 country where this need has been identified does not have  
14 other, less destructive options some of which could be  
15 brought online in a more timely manner.

16 As a result of technology advances in  
17 extracting natural gas and renewable generation, it must be  
18 the case more local options are available. With national  
19 news highlighting inefficient and unreliable grid control,  
20 it doesn't appear adding more grid is the best solution.

21 And then this is mine, Joni Newland. I live  
22 in a house that would be extremely close to the proposed  
23 transmission lines. I'm concerned about health risks for  
24 myself from the constant exposure of living next to the  
25 high voltage lines as well as my grandchildren who might

1 stay with me for extended periods of time.

2 In addition to the negative effects of the  
3 close range high voltage transmission lines, I'm also  
4 concerned about the effects of the spraying to be done to  
5 control undergrowth along the transmission lines. The  
6 resulting damage to trees and grass in my yard and in the  
7 pasture would be hazardous or even deadly to the wildlife  
8 that is currently abundant in the area, along with my pets  
9 and any livestock that might be grazing in my pasture.

10 There should be no guarantee that ATXI out of  
11 Illinois will hire locally since the project hasn't even  
12 been approved yet. And even if they do, at what point do  
13 we not put temporary, monetary, not-guaranteed gain above  
14 the quality of life of generations to come in this area?

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. NEWLAND: There is also a negative  
17 economic impact that's difficult to measure but would be  
18 definitely felt. This would occur when individuals who  
19 might consider buying property in this area for a life away  
20 from stresses and disadvantages of the city for themselves  
21 and their children or those who wish to move here for  
22 retirement are no longer interested due to the transmission  
23 lines. We are a very small rural area and we can't afford  
24 to lose any potential citizens.

25 Eminent domain should not be allowed to be

1 used when the purpose is not in the public interest. The  
2 Schuyler County commissioners have not granted approval for  
3 this project in their county, nor have commissioners from  
4 other counties shown approval for it.

5 This high voltage transmission line proposed  
6 by an out-of-state company is not for Schuyler County's  
7 benefit, nor for the benefit of other counties in the path  
8 of the transmission lines or the rest of the state of  
9 Missouri, and it is not in the public interest.

10 Please deny ATXI's certificate for convenience and  
11 necessity.

12 (Applause.)

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Newland, thank you. David  
14 Schwartz, Junior.

15 MR. HAXTON: David Schwartz, Senior and  
16 Junior, they had -- David Schwartz Junior had a medical  
17 issue with his family and had to go to that, but it was  
18 witnessed that they gave me their hours. Not hours. Their  
19 time. As did David Schwartz, the bishop, as did Paul  
20 Baumgarten, so --

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. Could you -- then could  
22 you state and spell your name for the court reporter,  
23 please.

24 MR. HAXTON: And then my time, too.

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay.

1 MR. HAXTON: Jason Haxton, H-a-x-t-o-n.

2 (Witness sworn.)

3 MR. HAXTON: I'm a firm believer in truth. I  
4 agree, so help me God.

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: When you're ready, sir.

6 MR. HAXTON: Okay. I'm the former mayor of  
7 Greentop. I've lived in this area -- kind of young for  
8 some of you -- 30 years only. I currently work at A.T.  
9 Still University of Health Sciences, an institution founded  
10 over a hundred years ago and provides medical health and  
11 well-being to 44 schools throughout the United States and  
12 hundreds of schools throughout the world, all begun by one  
13 person who lived in this county, whose father had land in  
14 this county.

15 I think it's appropriate talking about schools  
16 when we're in a school. This school is built with tax  
17 dollars and it always costs us more money, and we invest in  
18 the children. We invest in humans at this school, hearts  
19 and souls. Businesses, as we've learned in school, exist  
20 for business' sake. Their only goal is unlimited growth at  
21 any cost. Businesses do not have hearts and they do not  
22 have souls. They have people that carry out their  
23 business.

24 And, interestingly, our founder at our school  
25 was a big observer. See, medicine was pretty bad for

1 thousands of years, very hurtful, but people made money.  
2 They bled, they burned, and they poisoned, and the doctors  
3 made money. Oh, it didn't work. It worked so badly that  
4 Thomas Jefferson said we shouldn't even license physicians'  
5 50 percent success rate. But it went on that way for a  
6 thousand years. It wasn't right, and it wasn't truthful.

7 Andrew Taylor Still said, I don't know what's  
8 out there, but I'll find something better because it's  
9 wrong to hurt people for your greater expense, and so he  
10 observed and found out that eating, exercising, positive  
11 thinking, and manipulation could make you better, and he  
12 said that's better than all those drugs and burning and  
13 bleeding. And he, by one man -- and he was persecuted for  
14 his ideas -- grew this great institution of health. So  
15 looking at businesses that have no heart or soul, it's not  
16 always the truth and it's not always good.

17 His father bought land here and he was a  
18 physician and a preacher. He helped the body and the soul  
19 of people in this very county. My land butts up against  
20 him, and in Greentop, we're unique because the city is  
21 divided into Adair and Schuyler County, so my interest has  
22 always been the well-being of the people in this county.

23 Ameren as a business is not the first to come  
24 to this county. One of the reasons I had the opportunity  
25 was because of the farm crisis in the 1980's. These are

1 the survivors that basically got through the farm crisis  
2 and are still here, generational farmers, but it left land  
3 open, and the first threat was the landfill by Orlando  
4 Schiappa and we fought for 45 years, and the only reason  
5 that we probably won that is because he had a plane  
6 accident and died besides being deeply in debt.

7           Meanwhile, CAFOs/pig farms are growing out in  
8 this same land. There's a lot of land left open, and so  
9 into this area basically came the pig farms and the threats  
10 to people again. And while we were fighting Schiappa over  
11 the landfill, the neighboring county was fighting the pig  
12 farms and the health and issues.

13           And those were seen as good things for  
14 business, but they had no souls and they were hurting the  
15 people, and finally, after four or five years, the laws  
16 came around and now they were not viable, so we were  
17 survived a second time when the CAFO wanted to come. There  
18 was just too much law to let them have that opportunity,  
19 leaving this land open for the Amish.

20           The Amish made great sacrifices to come here.  
21 When their community got too big in Indiana, they pooled  
22 their money together and searched out the area for good  
23 farm land and quality of life. They bought all of their  
24 land, 4,000 acres, in one giant lot which stretches with  
25 the Mennonites almost 13.8 miles through where this



1 development for the transmission line wants to go.

2           It would go through all their homes, which  
3 each is a church, through their land, and basically through  
4 their schools, their cemeteries, and their properties.  
5 We'll get to how this line could even be -- even thought of  
6 through this area in just a little bit, but when I first  
7 met the director of transmission stakeholder relations at  
8 Ameren -- she's here -- with the bishop, I was told that  
9 basically they didn't know there were any Mennonites or  
10 Amish in this area.

11           They had devised six routes, and they had  
12 ended up picking two which are the two that we most  
13 recently saw. I question what this great business was  
14 thinking when they claim that they had no idea there were  
15 Amish or Mennonites, but if you travel Blueberry Way, which  
16 is the route it would go through, you cannot help but see  
17 the buggies, the homes without electricity, the signs that  
18 actually identify these places, so I feel that it was based  
19 somewhat on a lie. I think a lot of these -- and this is  
20 my personal beliefs from what I saw -- is that these routes  
21 were to create dissension among the people so that we would  
22 be weakened.

23           I also perceived that when we went to those  
24 town meetings, they really weren't for the town. They were  
25 for Ameren to gather the information to find our

1 weaknesses, to find whatever they could, not to make it  
2 better but to make their case stronger to hurt us, and  
3 that's one of the reasons I stopped communicating with them  
4 is that we, doing what we thought was right and truthful,  
5 were harming ourselves every time we opened our mouths.  
6 And they controlled those meetings so that if anyone didn't  
7 toe the line, out they went, and I saw that happen, too.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. HAXTON: The town meetings were a buffoon  
10 for all of us.

11 Observation, that's how we got better  
12 medicine. As I look out here, everyone I've seen speak  
13 today is still here, except the people in the petition.  
14 They are the ones that need to be here. But look. Have  
15 you seen where they are at? We've stuck to it. This is  
16 our home. They're like what we would call carpetbaggers.

17 Yeah, the Amish told us to say this, that  
18 basically they don't blame them. They're trying to make a  
19 living for themselves where they're from, but they'll do  
20 anything to make that living. It's all about the money,  
21 and that's what big business is and I'm sure Ameren's worth  
22 billions of dollars. It's big business. It has no heart.  
23 It has no soul. It is not a school. It is not making  
24 people better.

25 It is growing and growing, and it has its

1 Minions doing its business, and what's sad is they can sit  
2 here and speak of how good it is but not stay through the  
3 whole meeting. I don't believe their heart is in it, and I  
4 know some of the people that spoke, but the fact that they  
5 had better things to do and go basically tells me what the  
6 story is on them. It's all about the money, and they're  
7 not here.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. HAXTON: The director of transmission and  
10 stakeholder relations is still here. But what the Amish  
11 wanted us to know is it took a lot for them to come today,  
12 and we had one bishop who was actually here, who spoke a  
13 year ago, and didn't understand, couldn't even make out the  
14 map, which was a bird's-eye view, because they never  
15 thought of their land from that perspective. The letters  
16 they received from the director of transmissions and  
17 stakeholder relations told them they could go online to  
18 their computers, they could phone on their cell phones, or  
19 they could go 20 miles to the meetings that were completely  
20 inconvenient.

21 There was no appreciation of this group at all  
22 in any way, and they certainly never walked that path,  
23 because to hear from that person, the director of  
24 transmission and stakeholder relations, say we had no clue  
25 there would be Amish and Mennonites despite massive signs

1 saying Shekinah Church, just by the obvious buggies and  
2 things, tells me that they didn't care, or if their  
3 research is that poor, they're not redesigning the route.  
4 It's all about money. It's not about heart and souls.

5 And so basically, it took a lot for those  
6 people to come here today. Some might say, well, where are  
7 they now? They're scrapping out a living. They have  
8 prayers and family to be with. They don't -- they're  
9 passive. They don't object, and it took a lot for them to  
10 come.

11 But it is so hurtful for what will happen to  
12 the land which is their church and each home that it would  
13 go over, which basically, oh, they're going to miss a lot  
14 of them, but Dave Schwartz's house is still on the route,  
15 but he had to leave. He wanted to speak, but he has a  
16 child in the hospital. And he is so careful. He said, If  
17 I get up and leave, will I have done something wrong to  
18 these people? I said, no, go to your son. Get out of  
19 here. I said, I'll speak for you.

20 These are very gentle people, and all they're  
21 going to do is pray about this, because this was a lot just  
22 to even physically show. But that's how sincere they are  
23 about what's going on, and the only other bishop who didn't  
24 come is basically recovering himself from a medical  
25 condition. He's 75 years old. They work until they drop,

1 and they're good people, and they just think this is not a  
2 good thing for nature.

3 A.T. Still said that we come closer to health  
4 when we commune with nature, and this 345,000 line is going  
5 for many people not to bring them closer to nature.  
6 There's other ways to do this. As we see with the Amish,  
7 you can live a good, full, simple life.

8 I appreciate the time you've given me. I just  
9 think this is not the truth and this is wrong, and I have  
10 spoken the truth. Business is for business to grow  
11 unheeded at the cost of every person it crumbles.  
12 Education, which we're about, and families is what it's  
13 really about, the human element. And thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you for your testimony.  
16 The next witness is Paul Brandenberger.

17 MR. HAXTON: I spoke for him, too.

18 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. And  
19 the next two people, I want to verify. I see Lorraine  
20 Austin and Herb Austin, but their names are crossed out. I  
21 want to make sure -- I'm glad I checked. Thank you.

22 (Witness sworn.)

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, ma'am. If you  
24 would, please, state your name and spell it for the record,  
25 and then you may testify.

1 MS. AUSTIN: My name is Lorraine Austin,  
2 L-o-r-r-a-i-n-e A-u-s-t-i-n.

3 My husband and I, Herb Austin, moved here  
4 about 15 years ago from El Paso, a very big metropolitan  
5 area, obviously with power lines zigzagging and crossing  
6 each other several times, and the beauty of this  
7 countryside just still amazes us. It's probably what we  
8 love about here. But what we really love here is the  
9 people, and we had, or thought we were going to have, our  
10 land be crossed by the line, but it turns out it may not  
11 be.

12 So I'm really just here on behalf, to speak to  
13 the public service board, the Missouri Public Service  
14 board, and you should represent your citizens here, whether  
15 they be in the bootheel or if they're here in northern  
16 Missouri almost at the state line.

17 These are hard working, good people. They  
18 have roots in this community. They go back many  
19 generations either on their land or maybe just living in  
20 the city, but they're family oriented people. They're  
21 loyal. They're hard working, and they love their land and  
22 their country and their people and their family here.

23 And I just want to remind Missouri public  
24 service board to work for Missouri and not an outside  
25 company that wants to come in and send electricity across

1 our land to New England states. Thank you very much for  
2 your time.

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Herb Austin.

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. Please state  
6 and spell your name for the record, and then you may give  
7 your testimony.

8 MR. AUSTIN: Herb Austin, H-e-r-b A-u-s-t-i-n.

9 We live in Schuyler County because we want to.  
10 We have no relatives that were from here. We weren't born  
11 here. We moved here about 13 -- in fact, 13 years ago  
12 yesterday, and we moved here because the country was so  
13 beautiful and we got to know the people. As we would come  
14 up and visit, we got to know a lot of people and we really  
15 liked the people.

16 Where we came from in Texas, we saw several  
17 instances throughout the years, the 30, 40 years we lived  
18 there, of utilities coming in and taking land and doing  
19 things that the public didn't want to do. What would  
20 happen is they would come in, they would build something,  
21 they would take it with eminent domain, and then they'd  
22 sell it off and somebody else would have it and make money  
23 on it, but it rarely ever benefited the people whose land  
24 they took.

25 And I think that when you talk about all of

1 the health issues that have been brought up and when you  
2 talk about all of the issues that could happen and all of  
3 the things that might happen, I don't think that you can  
4 take a chance on saying, well, this may or may not. You're  
5 dealing with people's lives. You're dealing with their  
6 livelihood, with their animals and their farms.

7 Small farms are getting too few these days.  
8 Corporate farms are taking over, so these people need to  
9 keep what they've got. I don't think our founding fathers  
10 really meant for eminent domain to come in and take  
11 people's land so corporations could make a better buck. I  
12 think that the corporations --

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. AUSTIN: I agree with what Mr. Haxton  
15 said. Corporations are heartless. Corporations do one  
16 thing, and they make money for their shareholders. That's  
17 what they're supposed to do, but when you have to balance  
18 that against making money for their shareholders to obtain  
19 electricity that Missouri's not even going to benefit from,  
20 I think you have to draw the line, and I would ask the  
21 Public Service Commission not to approve this.

22 (Applause.)

23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Austin, thank you. The  
24 next witness is John Beaver.

25 (Witness sworn.)



1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. Please state  
2 and spell your name for the court reporter, and then you  
3 may testify.

4 MR. BEAVER: John, J-o-h-n, Beaver. The last  
5 name's just like the animal, B-e-a-v-e-r.

6 This is the first one of these that I've been  
7 to, and -- but it's -- and I'm going to tell everybody  
8 right upfront I'm not from here. I do not own land here.  
9 I deny I'm a landowner. I am a small farmer, but I work  
10 and I'm here representing a company that will probably, if  
11 we get the job, we're intending on making money, as certain  
12 people have said, in the construction of this line. That's  
13 what we do.

14 I work for J.F. Electric, who is a power  
15 constructor builder, power line builder. I want to just  
16 kind of say something. I understand your passion and your  
17 concern about your property. I sincerely do.

18 In the early '70s, I attended school up here  
19 at the college about 30-something miles south of us called  
20 at that time Northeast Missouri State College, and you guys  
21 have changed the name of it. It's now Truman University,  
22 but -- and then after I got married, I did like this land,  
23 like many of you have said. It means something to you.

24 I brought my new wife up here and I wanted to  
25 buy a farm in this area and we looked around and we looked

1 around and we looked around and I found farmland that I  
2 would have liked to have owned, but folks, I married a girl  
3 from Illinois and I couldn't get her out of there, so we  
4 didn't move up into your area. But I understand your  
5 passion for your land.

6 As I said, I am farmer and I do work for a  
7 power construction, power line builder. My father was a  
8 lineman. There's six linemen in my family, so it's  
9 something that we're proud of, the industry that we've made  
10 our living with for so long.

11 And also I've heard many statements that  
12 people have said about the dangers of electricity and the  
13 -- to be around it and stuff like that, the voltage, stray  
14 voltages and stuff like that. For 60-something years our  
15 family has been involved with electricity and there has  
16 been no cancer in our family -- I just want to state that  
17 -- as far as the men workers.

18 As far as the farming goes, in Illinois we did  
19 farm. My father and I farmed 500 acres. We farmed during  
20 the evenings mostly and weekends. We did power line work  
21 during the day through the week. We had a hundred head of  
22 cows that we ran, and much of the ground that we rented was  
23 actually underneath a 345,000 volt line, so I am familiar  
24 with that. Yes, there's some inconvenience farming around  
25 the structures. There is.

1           We ran cattle. We didn't notice anything to  
2 do with any of the stray voltages. We didn't notice some  
3 of the things that other people are concerned about, and we  
4 did this for 20 plus years until the property was sold and  
5 we no longer had access to it.

6           At J.F., expenditures of what -- any line  
7 construction company, no matter who gets it, if it does get  
8 approved and stuff like that, the amount of money that a  
9 contractor will spend in the area will be for -- like  
10 somebody had already said, it will only be for a couple  
11 years. We know that. There will be fuel. There will be  
12 hotels, parts, food, that sort of thing, and then the line  
13 construction company is gone but the power line will  
14 remain. That's a given.

15           My concern is for our industry in this country  
16 and the need for electricity to -- a sustainable power to  
17 drive an economic engine for our country. One of these  
18 days I certainly hope we start bringing jobs back to this  
19 country instead of transporting them all and exporting them  
20 all to the foreign countries. I would like to see that.  
21 In order to do that, though, we do have to have a reliable  
22 source of electricity.

23           And the voters in the states have said that  
24 they want renewable energies. And as a result of that, how  
25 do you do it? This is a manner of doing it. They're

1 saying wind energy, solar, a variety of that type of stuff,  
2 and so your provider in this state, which is Ameren, is  
3 attempting to do that.

4 Wildlife, I've got a lot of experience  
5 building power lines in various states, and I can tell you  
6 from my experience many hunters have their deer stands and  
7 a variety of hunting sites on the right of ways, the  
8 easements that transverse across the states in the various  
9 areas. And from my experience, we try to work with them  
10 during deer season, and you'd be amazed at the food plots  
11 that are planted right along in the easements and stuff  
12 like that. So having said that, my experience, I'm not  
13 seeing detriment to the wildlife.

14 But I just want to say that, yes, I am in  
15 favor of the power line that's being proposed here, and I  
16 do understand your concern about your property and your  
17 farms. Thank you.

18 Folks, I don't expect to get a round of  
19 applause.

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Mr. Beaver, thank  
21 you. The next witness is Mr. Shapiro.

22 Did you have another signup list? All right.  
23 Thank you.

24 (Witness sworn.)

25 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. Please state

1 and spell your name for the court reporter, and then you  
2 may give your testimony.

3 MR. SHAPIRO: My name is Stephen,  
4 S-t-e-p-h-e-n, Shapiro, S-h-a-p-i-r-o. I'm a resident of  
5 Scotland County, so unlike many of you people here, I'm not  
6 affected directly by this line, but I oppose it directly.  
7 And like most everyone here and in our whole state, I also  
8 won't get the benefits of this line that there are.

9 People have spoken about many of these  
10 benefits of bringing money into the area, which is true.  
11 It's a good point that restaurants and hotels and certain  
12 small amounts of nonunion people will get jobs here, but  
13 for the most part, that seems to me to be skimming a lot of  
14 money off of people's land who live here, and that money  
15 will be filtered through these people outwards to the  
16 cities and states, not here, and into this company.

17 Hotels are for people not from here, and we  
18 are already living in this northeast Missouri world, this  
19 rural world where people are fleeing to the cities. Do we  
20 want to continue to devalue this area and push people into  
21 cities? Do we want to punish small landowners for  
22 stewarding their land and benefit contractors,  
23 manufacturers, and corporations from elsewhere for harming  
24 that land?

25 It may be said, well, it's just a tower and

1 it's just on one little, small square of land, which is  
2 true, and it could be said that it's not a big deal, that  
3 it's a minor inconvenience. We have a lot of chairs in  
4 this room. If we were to fill up this room, we'd have  
5 hundreds of chairs. If we take off all of the chairs from  
6 this basketball court because we need to play basketball,  
7 we want to play basketball, but we leave just one chair,  
8 it's just one small chair. It's a fraction of a percent.  
9 It's not a big deal, a minor inconvenience while playing  
10 basketball, and we can work around it. We'd get used to  
11 it.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. SHAPIRO: We would learn to play  
14 basketball a different way, but it would forever change the  
15 game.

16 And it's also said that this would bring green  
17 power to the east, which is great. I fully support green  
18 power, even more support local power on your roof or in  
19 your backyard. But does green power -- does the kind of  
20 green power that we want bring tears to people's eyes and  
21 potential leukemia to their children?

22 That's all. I oppose this line.

23 (Applause.)

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Shapiro, thank you. The  
25 next witness is Representative Nate Walker.

1 (Witness sworn.)

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. If you would,  
3 please, state and spell your name for the court reporter.

4 MR. WALKER: My name is Nate walker, N-a-t-e  
5 W-a-l-k-e-r. I'm the third district state representative.  
6 I represent parts of Adair County, the City of Kirksville,  
7 the counties of Sullivan, Putnam, and Mercer County, and  
8 I've been telling the truth ever since I got sworn in last  
9 week when you heard around 60 people testify opposed to  
10 this.

11 I think you'll see from this hearing, the  
12 hearing last week, and the hearing tomorrow night that this  
13 is not a good idea and this is an idea that has grassroots  
14 opposition. And these are people who are not overly  
15 emotional, but they're using practical reason in their  
16 opposition to this, and my testimony is tonight just to go  
17 back on record as I'm in opposition of this project and I  
18 will testify more tomorrow night.

19 But I do appreciate you being here again, and  
20 I appreciate all these people from throughout northeast  
21 Missouri coming to testify and show their opposition. This  
22 is a process that has meaningful purpose, and if we thought  
23 it was a good idea, then I think most of these people would  
24 be probably still out on a combine or still out working and  
25 doing other things than being here tonight. But last week

1 we had four hours plus. It was around midnight when I got  
2 home, and you've heard a lot of good comments since,  
3 testimony, and then you've also heard some hired testimony.

4 And our good friend that was here, I think he  
5 was trying to sneak in because he had the uniform on. He  
6 had a red shirt and the hat and so forth. But welcome to  
7 northeast Missouri, and we appreciate you being here. Make  
8 sure you fill up your car with gas before you leave and  
9 spend as much money as you can.

10 But this is a project that from the very  
11 beginning, and I met with officials from Ameren  
12 Transmission of Illinois before this project was even  
13 announced publicly, and one of the things that I kept  
14 telling them is they seemed pretty cocky and they seemed  
15 pretty opinionated that they were going to make this  
16 happen. I said, you know, you need to listen to these  
17 people because you're going across their land and this land  
18 means a lot to them.

19 And, I said, you know, if you want this  
20 project to be successful, you need to take their input.  
21 And if you are going to build this line in north Missouri,  
22 then perhaps you need to go on existing right of way that  
23 you have and go down property lines and work with them to  
24 establish a plan to build this line. They didn't do that.  
25 And, in fact, I do believe that they already knew which



1 line was going to be built and they were set on just slam  
2 dunking, since we're in a basketball court, and the  
3 metaphor that the gentleman from Scotland County used was  
4 probably the best metaphor that I've heard in a long time.

5 But again, I'm on record in opposition to  
6 this, and I'll testify tomorrow night with additional  
7 facts. But thank you for being here tonight and allowing  
8 this process to take place.

9 (Applause.)

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Representative Walker, thank  
11 you. The next witness is Chloe Jackson.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you would, please state and  
14 spell your name for the court reporter, and then you may  
15 testify.

16 MS. JACKSON: Chloe Jackson, C-h-l-o-e  
17 J-a-c-k-s-o-n. I'm actually testifying tomorrow night, and  
18 tonight I'm testifying on behalf of John Ballanger, Junior.  
19 That's J-o-h-n B-a-l-l-a-n-g-e-r.

20 He says, I'm a row crop farmer. I run  
21 cow-calf breeding stock and background calves on my  
22 property. I already have one 161 volt transmission line  
23 across the farm, and I'm opposed to having another.

24 Contractors spook my cattle and bring disease  
25 onto my land. There's no protocol in place to disinfect

1 equipment between farms. I oppose the Mark Twain  
2 Transmission Line because I fear loss of my cattle.

3 I will have the added expense of haying or  
4 cropping around the poles. I'm also opposed to the  
5 proposed transmission line because I'm afraid that it will  
6 make my GPS equipment worthless. Please say no to the Mark  
7 Twain Transmission Project. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Jackson, thank you. The  
10 next witness is Liat Silverman.

11 (Witness sworn.)

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. If you would,  
13 please, state and spell your name for the court reporter,  
14 and then you may testify.

15 MS. SILVERMAN: Liat Silverman, L-i-a-t  
16 S-i-l-v-e-r-m-a-n. I want to keep this short. I don't  
17 need to take up much of people's time. I live in northeast  
18 Missouri, and I oppose the transmission line. My opinions  
19 have already been spoken by many people out here, so I  
20 don't need to keep going. I'm here to deliver letters from  
21 four of my neighbors who also oppose it. Thank you.

22 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Silverman, thank you. If  
23 we could label those, I believe, as Exhibit 6.

24 (Exhibit 6 was marked for identification.)

25 THE REPORTER: Yes, sir.

1 MS. SHAPIRO: I ask to affirm.

2 (Witness affirmed.)

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. If you  
4 would, please state and spell your name for the court  
5 reporter, and then you may testify.

6 MS. SHAPIRO: Ariel Shapiro, A-r-i-e-l  
7 S-h-a-p-i-r-o.

8 I live within a mile of this proposed route on  
9 an educational farm near La Plata. I am very concerned  
10 about the effects of this route on our farm which hosts  
11 hundreds of people every year, our neighbors on their  
12 farms, and the many children who live along our road, as  
13 well as the animals and plants that inhabit the diverse,  
14 forested land that this line would greatly damage.

15 I have spent many hours walking these woods,  
16 and I want to point out the hundreds of species that would  
17 be affected by the loss of habitat this line would cause.  
18 There are many species of migrating song birds that pass  
19 through, bald eagles that nest there, monarch butterflies,  
20 as well as the endangered Indiana brown bats that nest in  
21 shagbark hickories.

22 ATXI could have chosen a different route along  
23 existing roadways or easements where they would not have to  
24 clear-cut forests. Instead, they chose a route through  
25 forests and biologically sensitive areas as well as through

1 the heart of farms and in close proximity to countless  
2 people's homes.

3 I urge you, the Missouri Public Service  
4 Committee, to oppose the Mark Twain Transmission Project  
5 and put people and life rather than corporate profits  
6 first. Thank you for your time.

7 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Shapiro, thank you. That  
8 is the last witness that I have signed up, but let me check  
9 before we close. Is there anyone else who wishes to  
10 testify?

11 (Show of hands.)

12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Okay. I've got several hands  
13 going up. Somebody come up first. I don't know any of  
14 your names. Sorry. I can't call you.

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And if you'll please state and  
16 spell your name for the court reporter.

17 MR. GOERS: Dale, D-a-l-e, Goers, G-o-e-r-s.

18 (Witness sworn.)

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Yes, sir. Thank you very  
20 much. You may testify.

21 MR. GOERS: I preached for eleven years, and  
22 sometimes when preacher's tell a story, they have to say,  
23 well, this is a true story or this is not a true story  
24 because maybe some of the things they say are not true;  
25 okay?

1           Now, what I would like to affirm tonight is  
2 there may or may not be a Santa Claus; okay? I don't want  
3 to bust anybody's bubble. But one thing there is not.  
4 There is not a goose that laid a golden egg. Now, no  
5 matter what you heard, there is no pot of gold at the end  
6 of the rainbow. Darby O'Gill is not going to get a pot of  
7 gold from King O'Brien, the king of the leprechauns. There  
8 is no economic benefit from this power line. Here's the  
9 reason why. It's real simple.

10           I don't know how many of you have heard of the  
11 Mark Twain Casino at La Grange, Missouri. They talk about  
12 how all the money is just going to be pouring in from that.  
13 Well, if the people from Iowa come and spend money at the  
14 Mark Twain Casino, yes, we get money, but ever dollar they  
15 spend there is a dollar they don't spend in Iowa, so it's  
16 not an economic benefit in the sum total. The same thing's  
17 true of Illinois. Now, if everybody from Illinois came  
18 over to Mark Twain Casino, boy, think of what that would do  
19 for us. But what's it going to do for the people in  
20 Illinois?

21           If we took everybody's money on this side of  
22 the room and gave it to the people on this side of the  
23 room, think what that would do over here. You could fix up  
24 your house, you could buy a new car, whatever, take a  
25 vacation. Well, what's that going to do to your neighbors

1 over here?

2 So there is no economic benefit from robbing  
3 Peter to pay Paul; okay? We need to realize that. Now,  
4 this gentleman, Nate Walker encouraged him to buy gas in  
5 this community. I think that's fine, but he's not going to  
6 buy gas in five different communities. He's going to fill  
7 that car one time, and if he buys gas here, he won't buy  
8 gas someplace else.

9 Now, what we're going to do is Ameren is going  
10 to raise everybody's electric rates to pay for this. There  
11 is no free power line. If economic money is spent on this  
12 power line, it will be taken from somewhere else. It's  
13 robbing Peter to pay Paul.

14 It would be about like when North Shelby has a  
15 basketball game and you go there and you find somebody's  
16 that's not there at the -- or who is there at the  
17 basketball game, so you go to their home and while they're  
18 at the basketball game, you take stuff from their home.  
19 Think how that helps you. Oh, isn't that wonderful? But  
20 what does it do to them?

21 And I've lived in north Missouri since 1972,  
22 for 43 years. In north Missouri, we don't do things like  
23 that, do we?

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. GOERS: And that's what I see about power.

1 There is no economic benefit. You're talking about what  
2 people are going to spend at motels and hotels and food and  
3 vendors along the way. No, they have to take that money  
4 from the poor people that pay their electric bill to give  
5 it somebody else. There is no economic benefit. They're  
6 just going to raise electric rates on poor people who can't  
7 afford it, so I am, therefore, opposed to the power line.  
8 Thank you, sir.

9 (Applause.)

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you'll state and spell your  
11 name for the court reporter, please, sir.

12 MR. KADEN: Ivan Kaden, I-v-a-n K-a-d-e-n.

13 (Witness sworn.)

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: When you're ready, sir.

15 MR. KADEN: I guess I don't know if I really  
16 would qualify this as testimony. It's more commentary and  
17 observation, and I would like to enforce a couple points to  
18 the Commission. First of all, I want to thank you for  
19 giving us this hearing.

20 It's easy for contractors and utility  
21 companies to quantify and calculate economics. It's not  
22 very easy for hundreds of landowners to put together an  
23 economic impact statement. The speaker from Shelby County  
24 pointed out that every agricultural entity is impacted  
25 differently.

1 I have Missouri Ameren on my line or on my --  
2 line on my property, and I am neighbors to Mr. Ballanger to  
3 the south. That line, the new line according to the  
4 proposed map, will be just east of the Missouri Ameren  
5 line, and they're both going to be just to the east  
6 boundary of my property.

7 I didn't really think there would be any  
8 impact for me honestly, but as I think about that, my  
9 operation is -- I have a small operation compared to my  
10 neighbor, Jeb Weaver. Actually, where I live is kind of  
11 the base of my operation, and I keep about 150 ewes and  
12 they're not there all the time, but when they're there,  
13 they're rotationally grazed through about six paddocks, and  
14 four of those paddocks have shade at the east end of that  
15 property. And that shade was sprouts when I bought the  
16 property, and now, 35 years later, it's pretty good shade  
17 and I can access that shade for all those paddocks and it's  
18 the only shade I have.

19 I'm not going to live long enough to replace  
20 it, to grow it, so there's an economic impact there for me.  
21 It's different than the economic impact for someone  
22 agriculturally, crop production, farming around that. The  
23 thing is, when you put the new line in, they're going to  
24 take those trees out.

25 You have a bunch of tree lovers here, you



1 found out, but it impacts everybody differently. And how  
2 do you calculate that and how do you add it up when you're  
3 sitting in your conference room weighing the testimony that  
4 you've heard? These contractors can say we're going to  
5 have so many hundred or a thousand man-hours of labor to  
6 build this line and that's going to be worth so much. You  
7 know, there are costs and consequences for the landowners  
8 that really are hard to quantify.

9 In terms of economics also, a couple of  
10 contractors who spoke, I want to reinforce to you guys that  
11 -- I heard one of them say and I guess they probably don't  
12 know who's going to get the contract if it's let. One of  
13 them said he's going to hire all local labor. There won't  
14 be any hotel stuff if he hires local labor. There would be  
15 people who would drive from Edina to Palmyra and back home.  
16 If much of the local labor was halfway in-between, those  
17 people wouldn't be spending nights in motels.

18 The second, I guess my closing, is not so much  
19 economic as it is once again a metaphor, and this might be  
20 kind of a sensitive metaphor to use, but Ameren and the  
21 contractors, once this thing would be built a couple years  
22 from now, they're going to wash their hands of it so to  
23 speak. They're just going to use it.

24 But the metaphor is this. I've never had the  
25 misfortune of having a divorce, but friends and relatives

1 that I know who have had that misfortune, from my  
2 observation, a divorce is never over. It lingers. And for  
3 property owners who have the lines across their property,  
4 it's always there. It's never over. It continually  
5 impacts you.

6 And I'll point out that Mr. Ballanger and I  
7 put in a new fence a few years ago, and I assume Ameren  
8 Missouri bought the gate where they had to cut the fence,  
9 but they never show up to ask us if we need a new gate, so  
10 I bought a \$150 gate. It was my end of the fence. If it  
11 hadn't been for them needing it, I didn't need it. Same  
12 way on the south end of my property. So it's never quite  
13 over for landowners.

14 (Applause.)

15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you for your testimony.  
16 If you would, sir, please state and spell your name for the  
17 court reporter.

18 MR. SMITH: Bobby Smith.

19 (Witness sworn.)

20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: When you're ready, sir.

21 MR. SMITH: First of all, I'm not dressed very  
22 good because I worked on a tractor all day today.

23 I've worked for Ameren UE for 36 and a half  
24 years as a lineman, and you can't imagine at the growth. I  
25 started in 1949, and you can't imagine the growth that has

1 taken place since then. And the generators that we had  
2 then, one was a 5,000 and one was a 2,500 and it served the  
3 whole county, Queen City and all, and we built a 17,500  
4 standby that we don't even use anymore, and so that's the  
5 growth.

6 And the only thing I can tell you, if you  
7 don't want the transmission lines, just quit using  
8 electricity. That's just that simple. Just -- just, Mark,  
9 when you go home, just throw your television out the  
10 window. So that's all I've got to say.

11 I -- I think the only way we're going to keep  
12 from having transmission lines is just quit using  
13 electricity, and I understand that the line is coming from  
14 Maywood down by Palmyra and it's going to the substation  
15 and we called it 150 when I worked there, but they call it  
16 Adair and it's out on Number 11 by Kirksville and I  
17 installed the first transformer that was ever there, and so  
18 that's all I've got to say.

19 You're going to have to have the transmission  
20 lines if you're going to keep using electricity.

21 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Mr. Smith, thank  
22 you. I think I saw other hands go up. If you would,  
23 please state and spell your name for the court reporter.

24 MS. GENTILE: Yes, my name is Erica,  
25 E-r-i-c-a, Gentile, G-e-n-t-i-l-e.

1 (Witness sworn.)

2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Whenever you're  
3 ready, ma'am.

4 MS. GENTILE: I oppose the Mark Twain  
5 Transmission Line. I live in Kirksville. My life will not  
6 be directly affected by this, but I know many people who  
7 live -- whose lives will be affected by the power line. I  
8 have concerns that people's ability to farm will be harmed.  
9 I also have concerns that the power line will have negative  
10 effects on the wildlife, and but the main reason for which  
11 I'm against it is our concerns about the health of the  
12 children and adults who live close to the line. Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If you'll please state and  
15 spell your name for the court reporter.

16 MS. BRIGGS: I'm Gena Briggs, G-e-n-a  
17 B-r-i-g-g-s.

18 (Witness sworn.)

19 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, ma'am. Whenever  
20 you're ready.

21 MS. BRIGGS: What can I say? What do I have  
22 to do to convince you that this transmission line project  
23 is wrong, not just for the landowners, but for all of  
24 Missouri? You have heard testimony that the power line  
25 will ruin timber ground, reduce crop production, and limit

1 the future land use options, decrease land value, impact  
2 animals' and humans' health and habitat, disrupt small  
3 businesses, and interfere with the state's esthetics.

4 We have been told all along that the project  
5 is inevitable. To quote Peggy Ladd at the August 5, 2014  
6 meeting in Kirksville, no is not an option. At ATI's --  
7 ATXI's open house meetings, particularly the Thursday,  
8 October 30, 2014 meeting in Kirksville, we were treated  
9 disrespectfully and in some instances nearly criminal.

10 ATXI had armed security at that meeting and  
11 expected all attendees to register at the door, even when I  
12 had their mailed invitation in hand. No one, ATXI  
13 representatives or the security, could tell me why signing  
14 in was required. I talked to three representatives and two  
15 security personnel.

16 My husband and I were one of the five families  
17 that had intervened in the Cole County court case, and when  
18 ATXI reps associated my husband, he was blocked from  
19 entering that building. Speaking of disrespectful, how  
20 all-powerful and self-important can an entity be to sue  
21 you, the PSC.

22 ATXI has stated that, quote, By improving the  
23 transmission grid, the Mark Twain Transmission Project will  
24 make it possible for more electricity to flow to customers,  
25 increasing access to lower cost energy. ATXI also declared

1 publicly that Missourians will pay for 8 percent of the  
2 total project cost with increased rates. How can it be  
3 lower cost to have to pay for a project with higher rates?

4 In a flyer that Ameren provided called The  
5 Truth About the Mark Twain Transmission Project, it states,  
6 quote, Missouri electric customers all along the route will  
7 benefit from the availability of electricity transported on  
8 the Mark Twain Transmission Project line.

9 Yet in the 19th Judicial Court -- Circuit  
10 Court, Cole County, in Jefferson City, ATXI testified that,  
11 quote, We are not holding ourselves out as an electric  
12 service provider to the general public of Missouri.

13 ATXI is a startup subsidiary of Ameren  
14 Corporation, created to sink or swim. If ATXI should not  
15 profit or worse, the subsidiary is designed so that Ameren  
16 will not be responsible or liable and Ameren's business  
17 ratings will not be harmed. If ATXI prospers, well,  
18 everybody wins.

19 ATXI has no business ratings, no credentials,  
20 no histories, and no guarantees. All this company would  
21 have to do is change its name and all contracts would  
22 become void. I'm not willing to gamble my part of my  
23 registered century farm on that. I oppose this project  
24 absolutely.

25 (Applause.)

1 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you, ma'am.

2 MR. SMITH: And by the way, I've got  
3 transmission lines going through.

4 MS. BRIGGS: Sir, I have, too. I've got one  
5 that runs north to south and east to west on my 8 acres.

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: If we could get back to the  
7 testimony, please. Thank you. Anybody else?

8 If you will state and spell your name for the  
9 court reporter, please.

10 MS. JOHNS: My name is Kathie Johns,  
11 K-a-t-h-i-e J-o-h-n-s.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you. If you  
14 would, please go ahead and give your testimony.

15 MS. JOHNS: I'm just one of the eight in the  
16 Johns Family Trust. Before I came to the meeting tonight,  
17 I was sitting in my easy chair and my son called and he  
18 said, "What you doing tonight, Momma?"

19 And I said -- he's in Des Moines, Iowa, and I  
20 said, "I'm going to the meeting tonight."

21 And he said, "You're wasting your time. He  
22 said, We tried to fight them in Iowa, too, and they did  
23 what they wanted anyway."

24 I just want you to know that we will go down  
25 fighting. We want to protect our land, our families, and

1 our way of living.

2 (Applause.)

3 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Ms. Johns, thank you. I see  
4 another gentleman coming forward.

5 All right. If you'll please state and spell  
6 your name for the court reporter, sir.

7 MR. SHIVELY: My name is Glen Shively, G-l-e-n  
8 S-h-i-v-e-l-y.

9 (Witness sworn.)

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Whenever you're ready, sir.

11 MR. SHIVELY: I married a gal from Dubuque,  
12 Iowa. Her folks live south of Dubuque. They live at  
13 Lamont. I don't remember what year it was they built one  
14 of these 300-and-some thousand volt lines. A year later,  
15 her dad come down with cancer and died. My uncle owned the  
16 ground that John Ballanger has. He come down with cancer  
17 and he has died. I'm thoroughly opposed to this.

18 I'm on a farm that my granddad was in World  
19 War I that he come back from. He was in the trenches in  
20 France. My great-grandparents had the farm before that.  
21 I'm the fourth one on it yet. I'd like to turn it over to  
22 my kids. Where they're talking about putting a line across  
23 me is my great grandparents' homestead.

24 And there's oak timber in there that's over  
25 150 years old. What are they going to do with it? You



1 can't replace it. They're going to cut it down. I've seen  
2 what they done with the transmission line up in Dubuque,  
3 Iowa. They cut it down. They cleared it out. They come  
4 in with a helicopter one year when we was up there  
5 visiting, and they had a big chain saw hanging down on a  
6 cable from it. They come along and they hacked it off.  
7 They keep it cleared.

8 I realize you've got to have electricity, but  
9 like they've already stated, they've got the 160 over  
10 there. We were propositioned with the big wind generators  
11 years ago from a company out in Colorado. They couldn't do  
12 it because the transmission line wasn't big enough over  
13 west of us. Why not use the one that's already there  
14 instead of tearing up some more ground and hurting so many  
15 people?

16 (Applause.)

17 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you for your testimony,  
18 sir. Anyone else? A few more hands.

19 And if you'll state and spell your name for  
20 the court reporter, please, sir.

21 MR. HAWKINS: Clayton Hawkins, C-l-a-y-t-o-n,  
22 Hawkins, H-a-w-k-i-n-s.

23 (Witness sworn.)

24 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Thank you.  
25 Whenever you're ready, sir.

1 MR. HAWKINS: I appreciate you taking your  
2 time and coming out tonight to hear our concerns and for  
3 being here and having three of these hearings across  
4 northeast Missouri so it could make it easier for all of us  
5 to get to them a little bit more conveniently.

6 And my dad has already talked about our hog  
7 operation earlier this evening, but one thing I wanted to  
8 bring up is biosecurity, and we've talked to Ameren at  
9 their open meeting, open houses, and mentioned biosecurity  
10 and how important that is and there's been PRRS and PED.  
11 They're pretty prevalent in the hog operations across  
12 America in the last couple years and the PRRS before that.  
13 There's many diseases in cattle and with any kind of  
14 livestock that we don't want to be transferred as farmers  
15 and could just have a major blow to the operation if we  
16 come down with those diseases.

17 Like there's trich in cattle, and if Ameren  
18 leaves a gate open and the neighbor's bull has trich, then  
19 he could come over and infect our cattle herd, or if  
20 Ameren, we've asked them if they do go ahead and come  
21 through with the proposed line that they would be biosecure  
22 by having -- washing their equipment down with  
23 disinfectant.

24 It's very important even if they're not coming  
25 across where an actual hog operation is because manure can

1 be pumped out on other fields where there's not even a hog  
2 operation coming across, and so -- and you can pick up the  
3 contamination on the highway or up and down the gravel  
4 roads and it could affect many farmers, and that's just an  
5 example for us.

6 And we also talked about bringing jobs into --  
7 to the local economy here, even though we hear from people  
8 from different states. I don't know. The definition of  
9 local is pretty loose, it sounds like. But anyway, we  
10 talked about how we want to bring jobs back to America, and  
11 here we are, some of the only ones left are American  
12 farmers and we're --

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. HAWKINS: We're in the bread basket of the  
15 world. We have and we want to continue to be that way. We  
16 want to -- we don't just feed these folks, but we feed  
17 people all around the world and we have an important job  
18 and I hope and pray that you'll allow us to continue to do  
19 that and not be interfered with all these power lines that  
20 are just cutting across places that don't have power lines  
21 already when we have existing right of ways.

22 Another question I have is what is green,  
23 clean energy when we could -- when we're knocking down  
24 trees and tearing up our ground and we have these big lines  
25 coming across? And our little electric fence will be hard

1 on the green plants along it and kind of dry them out, and  
2 that's just a few volts. What about 345,000 volts coming  
3 across, damaging, drying out our corn field? We already  
4 have enough problems with drought in Missouri. We can go  
5 from flood to drought in two weeks and dry out and it looks  
6 like it will be less if we have a big power line drying out  
7 the soil.

8 I know green and clean doesn't mean allowing  
9 erosion to come from where they clear out these paths. It  
10 sounds like some of these people need to -- from Ameren  
11 ought to take some classes down at the University of  
12 Missouri to understand our agricultural operations. It  
13 takes nearly a hundred years to build up one inch of  
14 topsoil, and with the amount of equipment that Ameren's  
15 going to come through with, it could be gone in one storm  
16 within a night.

17 And we've got to protect what we have left  
18 here in the U.S. as far as our jobs and our security and  
19 everything. Farmers are very -- to be a farmer, you have  
20 to be very economical about how you go about things. We  
21 try to be efficient in our energy use and turn whatever we  
22 need off whenever we're not using it and those that haven't  
23 probably aren't in business anymore and we're the few that  
24 are still in business and I just hope that -- I hope that  
25 we can put an end and oppose this line so we don't have a

1 snowball of terrible effects on us and the rest of the  
2 world for years to come. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Anyone else?

5 If you'll state and spell your name for the  
6 court reporter, please.

7 MS. GAMES: Deborah Games, D-e-b-o-r-a-h G-a-m  
8 as in Mary e-s.

9 (Witness sworn.)

10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, ma'am. Whenever  
11 you're ready.

12 MS. GAMES: I wanted to say that I'm  
13 disheartened that none of the commissioners were able to  
14 make it tonight, and I'd actually like to speak again  
15 tomorrow night so that I could look them in the eye, but I  
16 wanted to share some of what I had in mind.

17 I'm concerned this project doesn't provide a  
18 benefit and that benefit to Missouri. Ameren Missouri  
19 doesn't need the energy, with their electricity generation  
20 being reduced by 7 percent in their 20-year plan. Ameren  
21 Missouri is the only utility that's part of MISO in  
22 Missouri that has an RPS mandate. The rural electric  
23 cooperatives, the only other utility companies in northeast  
24 Missouri, are not planning to use Mark Twain.

25 The RECs serve 30 percent of the meters in our

1 five counties. Ameren Missouri serves 58 percent of the  
2 meters in our five counties, but half of the 58 percent  
3 that Ameren Missouri serves is just through the town of  
4 Hannibal, which is actually operated through the town  
5 itself.

6 There are no operating wind farms in Missouri  
7 that are planning to use Mark Twain. There are no proposed  
8 wind farms that are planning to use Mark Twain. There is  
9 no plan to develop wind energy in the state of Missouri,  
10 and we're being told this line is for wind energy.

11 When Shuteye Creek Wind Farm was terminated in  
12 2012, TradeWind's CEO Rob Freeman said, It's increasingly  
13 evident that the wind energy market in Missouri will simply  
14 not develop in the foreseeable future, given the lack of  
15 interest in wind energy in the state.

16 There are no significant reliability issues in  
17 northeast Missouri. There are only alleged reliability  
18 issues starting in 2021 and then beginning to drop off in  
19 2026, according to an engineer with a Ph.D. in electrical  
20 engineering from MIT who evaluated our case.

21 Mark Twain is not needed for Ameren Missouri's  
22 plan to add 400 megawatts of wind energy. The Department  
23 of Energy projects a major decline in wind power growth in  
24 the United States after 2016. The federal wind tax credit  
25 has expired, and wind development will not continue without

1 it because the wind farms are cost prohibitive and  
2 unsustainable.

3 Mark Twain would devastate or destroy almost  
4 300 family farms, including century farms, and 54,000 acres  
5 of farmland in northeast Missouri. ATXI is not going  
6 through farms in Illinois or MidAmerican Energy is not  
7 going through farms in Iowa, and those are the states which  
8 benefit the most from the line because they produce the  
9 most wind energy in MISO of all the states in MISO and are  
10 selling it to the East Coast.

11 In Illinois, ATXI must observe property  
12 boundary lines, and in Iowa they are using existing  
13 easements and upgrading an existing 161,000 volt line to  
14 accommodate their 345,000 volt line.

15 ATXI proposed a route which minimized their  
16 costs, but then the burden of increased cost is placed on  
17 our farms instead. ATXI would maximize its profits as FERC  
18 guarantees a 12.38 return -- excuse me. A 12.38 percent  
19 return on equity. It makes it virtually risk-free from  
20 ATXI with a forward looking rate calculation.

21 Our farms aren't earning anything from this  
22 line. In fact, they are losing farm income and being  
23 inadequately compensated for the amount of land that will  
24 be taken out of full production forever. Furthermore, they  
25 would bear the increased expenses of a 345,000 volt line

1 interfering with farming. This cost can be up to \$200,000  
2 per farm or more.

3 Under the Right to Farm Law passed in August  
4 of 2014, ATXI does not have the authority to take farmland  
5 out of productive use, and it's a constitutional law to  
6 protect Missouri's number one industry, agriculture. The  
7 Right to Farm Law protects farms so corporations can't  
8 devastate or destroy farms to maximize corporate profit.

9 ATXI calculates the cost of this project as 8  
10 percent of the total project cost of 224 million, or about  
11 \$18 million, to Missouri rate payers, totaling less than  
12 one dollar per household per month. However, the real cost  
13 is to our farms in loss of farm income due to reduced  
14 production and increased expenses. Farm expenses just to  
15 accommodate the line could be over \$50 million. This  
16 doesn't include the production income loss forever. When  
17 this real cost is included, the cost far outweighs the  
18 benefit in Missouri.

19 Mark Twain requires upgrading the electrical  
20 system from no code to national electrical code at the  
21 farmer's expense. That alone makes this line cost  
22 prohibitive to everyone on it.

23 Other expenses include losing hundreds of  
24 acres of valuable topsoil due to construction, having to  
25 buy out a CRP contract which can't be honored because it



1 requires annual burning which cannot be done under the  
2 line, farms cannot use portable electric fencing under or  
3 near the line -- this was mentioned earlier -- replacement  
4 of GPS systems which won't work properly near the line,  
5 electronic weigh scales on the grain cart that need to be  
6 replaced, metal storage bins with electric lines located  
7 under or near the line would pose a safety risk, crop loss  
8 from acres that cannot be sprayed by a crop duster because  
9 they are under or near the line, price of cattle killed  
10 from stray voltage near the line, income loss due to the  
11 renter asking for less cash rent per acre, income loss from  
12 leased hunting ground due to construction and maintenance,  
13 less crop yield due to soil compaction, et cetera. The  
14 list goes on and on.

15           These expenses can reach 200,000 or more per  
16 farm, not including the annual loss of income of up to  
17 \$60,000 or more per farm. These would be out-of-pocket  
18 expenses to financially strained farms. These actual  
19 tangible expenses should be included in a cost-benefit  
20 analysis of the project. If ATXI is going through farms to  
21 save costs, they should be required to compensate the farms  
22 for these added expenses. Otherwise, ATXI is maximizing  
23 profits by passing what would be their costs onto the  
24 farms.

25           (Applause.)

1 MS. GAMES: ATXI's costs for the line is \$2  
2 million per mile. If they cut through farms to take the  
3 straightest distance between two points, they save costs.  
4 If they save 10 miles of transmission, they've saved \$20  
5 million, but it's costing the farms \$50 million. If ATXI  
6 were held accountable for this cost, it would be more cost  
7 effective for them to avoid farms.

8 And even going along the property boundary  
9 line of a farm, if the easement is on productive farmland,  
10 the same loss of income and increased expenses applies. If  
11 ATXI is held accountable for these costs, then ATXI is  
12 financially motivated to consider using existing easements  
13 or upgrading existing lines.

14 One farm mentioned earlier will lose \$60,000  
15 annually forever. That's \$6 million a century on a century  
16 farm. ATXI devastates the poorest counties in Missouri and  
17 then brags the cost to Missouri is only \$18 million. This  
18 is false. They do this by ignoring inconvenient costs,  
19 inconvenient truths. This perpetuates erroneous  
20 decision-making on everyone's part.

21 Now that Missouri has a Right to Farm Law and  
22 productive farmland is protected, these costs should become  
23 part of the equation in the cost-benefit analysis.  
24 Evaluating true actual costs support everyone in making the  
25 best decisions, where farmland is rightfully avoided, use

1 of existing easements is maximized, and existing lines are  
2 upgraded for the lowest cost option.

3 The only benefit to Missouri is a small amount  
4 of tax revenue. Even if it's promised to last 20 years,  
5 the damage to our farms will last for centuries. Money is  
6 not a reason to obliterate our livelihoods, violate our  
7 Right to Farm Law, and violate our constitutional property  
8 rights.

9 We're grateful to have an engineer who  
10 cost-justified upgrading an existing 161,000 volt line to  
11 345,000 volts instead of building this line. He also  
12 suggests using rooftop solar to reduce some of the 400  
13 megawatts of wind that Ameren Missouri plans to purchase.  
14 This would minimize land use impact and provide the lowest  
15 cost to rate payers.

16 The weather in Missouri has been enough of a  
17 challenge for farmers. Three of the four last years has  
18 either been drought or excessive rain. This year estimated  
19 farm losses for each of the counties on the line are  
20 approximately 2.4 to 4 million dollars per county. Farms  
21 in this area have enough challenges without the added  
22 burden of corporate interests.

23 Someone mentioned earlier that Schuyler County  
24 is the poorest county in the state of Missouri. Adair is  
25 the fifth poorest, where one in four people live below the

1 federal poverty line and are food insecure. ATXI will  
2 contribute to this by financially devastating 300 farms.  
3 Our community is working hard to decrease the number of  
4 people who are food insecure. I ask for your support with  
5 that, even if it means that ATXI is not maximizing their  
6 return to shareholders. Everyone deserves to eat.

7 The Missouri Department of Conservation  
8 recommended ATXI choose a route which destroy the least  
9 number of forest blocks for the endangered Indiana bats and  
10 the migratory birds, and a route which utilized more  
11 existing easements and largely followed a roadway.

12 Instead, ATXI destroyed more forest blocks, used almost no  
13 existing easements, and diagonally goes through farms.

14 We're concerned that ATXI continues to sue the  
15 Public Service Commission, indicating they shouldn't need  
16 to check with the state regulatory authority to site in  
17 Missouri because they have FERC approval and don't sell to  
18 Missouri customers. Even when the PSC approved a  
19 certificate of convenience and necessity for ATXI's  
20 Illinois River Project in Missouri, the 12-mile stretch,  
21 ATXI responded by indicating they actually didn't need the  
22 approval.

23 It's important to discern whether projects are  
24 essential. As we know, MISO has plans to spend 25 billion  
25 in the next 25 years. MISO has already planned another

1 four transmission lines in Missouri, one of which is in  
2 northeast Missouri. Proposed transmission projects will  
3 continue for at least the next decade according to an  
4 analyst at S&P Capital IQ. We respectfully object to our  
5 farms being obliterated by continued proposed transmission  
6 lines.

7 A vast majority of landowners are opposed to  
8 this line for legitimate reasons. We request that the  
9 Public Service Commission require ATXI to provide a  
10 cost-benefit analysis of all the alternatives evaluated.  
11 We understand that ATXI is required to present a  
12 cost-benefit analysis of the project alternatives  
13 considered.

14 Please take heed of our county commissioners'  
15 decision to oppose the project and do what's right for the  
16 farmers and citizens of Missouri. We ask for your help in  
17 defending our farm rights and our constitutional property  
18 rights. We count on your help.

19 Please deny ATXI franchise or at least  
20 disapprove the Mark Twain project. We're not willing to  
21 forfeit our farming rights or property rights to corporate  
22 profit. Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. GAMES: One more thing. I want to echo  
25 the words of the President of the Missouri Cattlemen's

1 Association, Janet Akers, "How much land currently in  
2 production agriculture has to go away before we put an end  
3 to this? The concerns in rural America and within the  
4 cattle sector are real."

5 (Applause.)

6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you. Anyone else?

7 All right. I don't see any hands. Anyone  
8 else? Double-checking.

9 All right. With that, I do want to thank  
10 everyone who testified tonight. I want to thank everyone  
11 who attended but did not testify. We appreciate you coming  
12 out. We appreciate your remarks and the research that  
13 you've put in.

14 Again, the Commission apologizes for not  
15 having a commissioner here. Unfortunately, one of our  
16 commissioners is attending to the funeral of her mother,  
17 and that's the reason she's not here. Otherwise, thank you  
18 very much, and that concludes tonight's local public  
19 hearing. Thank you. We're off the record.

20 (The hearing was adjourned at 9:59 p.m.)  
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Stephanie Prewitt, Registered Professional Reporter and Certified Court Reporter within and for the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the foregoing record of proceedings and testimony of witnesses was taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this hearing was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

  
Stephanie Prewitt, RPR, CCR No. 746



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