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**Missouri Public Service Commission
12/7/16 Public Hearing in Monroe County
Comments from David Carpenter (EMLA President)**

Missouri Public
Service Commission

My name is David Carpenter. My address is 11564 Route Y, Clark, MO. I live in Monroe county on property my family has owned since first settled in 1819 - almost 200 years ago. The proposed GBE line would cross my property.

I studied electrical engineering at the University of Missouri - Rolla and graduated with a BS degree in engineering management. I lived in St. Louis for 40 years and had a successful career as an Information Technology developer and manager supporting financial business systems. I retired from Boeing.

I'm involved in my community, serving as a member of the Middle Grove school board, and as a board member for the Safe Passage women's shelter in Moberly.

I am president of the Eastern Missouri Landowners Alliance (EMLA). The EMLA has approximately 500 members, including landowners on the path of the Grain Belt Express, and many others who also strongly oppose the use of eminent domain for private gain. We stand together for the single purpose of defeating this project. We have no billionaire backers. We are donating our own hard earned money for attorney and expert witness fees that we would much rather be spending on our families and businesses. But, we must defend our rights.

Where I live in Monroe county I am surrounded by the Clark Amish community. My Amish neighbors are hard working, moral, ethical, Christian people. They use no electricity from the existing power grid and don't want GBE to go through their community. At a recent event at the local Amish lumber yard, we collected nearly 200 signatures, mostly Amish, on our petition for submission to the PSC. Their chief concern is for the health of their children. The proposed route is very near two Amish schools. These children would be bathed in a strong electromagnetic field every day during their school years. GBE offers no definitive studies proving that High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) represents no cancer risk to school children. It is unacceptable to subject these children to this risk and just wait to see in a few years who was right about this.

A May, 2015 Midwest Energy News article includes some interesting information on the use of eminent domain. It says a bill before Iowa's Senate would restrict developers' access to eminent domain by requiring a developer to obtain at least 75 percent of the needed land through voluntary easements. This bill is aimed at giving landowners a higher price for their land. It will also give landowners more influence over the siting of projects. Maybe this would be a good model for Missouri to review when considering changes to legislation regulating the use of eminent domain.

Clean Line has said that burying the line is too expensive. That may be true assuming they obtain Eminent Domain powers and are able to force easements upon landowners. But it might not be true without eminent domain, where buyer and seller are on equal footing. Landowners would be much more receptive to an underground design. I have read about gas-insulated transmission lines (GILs). GILs can transmit large amounts of electricity in tight spaces and with low losses. A further advantage of GILs is that virtually no electric or magnetic fields can be detected in their immediate vicinity. GIL technology complies with the most stringent European guidelines. Costs can be reduced by having electric power and data lines share tunnels. Both



types of grids can be buried side by side in accessible tunnels next to highways and rail lines.

Many who support GBE seem to feel that this is the only option for transitioning to renewable energy, and that we who stand in opposition are misguided in our thinking. I mentioned GIL technology as a better option for long distance transmission. But an even better option is to stop building huge power transmission lines, and move to local generation. This movement is already underway in the US. Local generation gives states, businesses, and individuals much more control and greatly reduces the threat of terrorism to power transmission infra-structure. Sun Solar is aggressively placing solar arrays on private properties in Missouri. Similar efforts are under way in many other states.

I appreciate the time constraints of these public hearings and the need for speakers to not repeat topics. I'm aware of, and agree with, the many other objections that EMLA members and others have to GBE. I would like to submit a written copy of my comments given here today, including a bullet point list of my other objections.

Other Objections

- Strong property rights under the US and MO Constitutions are fundamental to our free enterprise society.
- Diminished value of entire property (not just easement acres) & near-by properties.
- No GBE power to be available in MO originally. Ralls county converter station and transmission capacity for Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission (MJMEUC) members added specifically to generate artificial demand in MO, and pressure PSC to grant eminent domain power.
- Small amount of cheap power and tax revenue in 8 counties does not broadly benefit the whole state of MO.
- No hard contracts for converter station or with MJMEUC. Will likely never happen once eminent domain granted.
- Fear Clean Line's real objective is to establish a corridor across the midwest for resale to highest bidder.
- Fear midwest corridor will be expanded to host multiple lines of power, oil, gas, data, etc.; further eroding property values with no additional compensation to landowners.
- One time payment at current fair market value rather than ongoing payments adjusted for inflation.
- Not-in-my-backyard (NIMBY). 200 foot towers and lines, horizon-to-horizon behind my home.
- 10 foot crop height restriction beneath lines
- Difficulty operating large farm equipment around base of towers
- 35 foot ground clearance of VHDC power lines is too low for safety above modern large farm equipment.
- Interference with essential efficient GPS based farming technology
- Interference with irrigation equipment and ariel application
- Soil compaction
- Elimination of future land use options
- HVDC corona, air ions, charge accumulation, audible noise (popping), and radio/TV interference
- Nearness of line to residences
- Negative impact to hunting and other agri-tourism
- GBE design uses least possible cost option at every point.
- GBE project team has no experience in building power infra-structure.

- Many people clamor for the minor benefits of a few temporary jobs and small tax revenues for only 8 counties with absolutely no empathy for landowners.
- Clean Line's condescension toward MO landowners made clear by their "Marketing to Mayberry" document
- GBE underhanded approach of getting county commissioners' approval without first informing citizens
- MO power utilities are granted a monopoly to provide power to customers in the area they serve. This prevents "destructive competition" and duplicated services from other potential power providers. GBE does not fit this model.
- Existing MO power utilities have expressed no need for any power from GBE to meet requirements.
- Several east cost states have written letters stating that they do not want GBE power, and prefer to source their power locally.
- Concern GBE will not put adequate resources in place to quickly repair storm damage. Could impact power lines and oil/gas pipelines crossed.
- GBE may cause corrosion of existing oil/gas pipelines. Could result in catastrophic explosions and fires.
- Clean Line dishonesty demonstrated by inflating the number of landowners they say have shown interest. They include anyone who came to their meetings to get information.
- Clean Line can't have it both ways to suit different needs. Clean Line either is, or is not, a public utility.
- Clean line's dishonesty in not mentioning to MO PSC that Illinois approval of GBE is being challenged in state court, and not mentioning that the Illinois Court of Appeals has ruled that Clean Line's similar proposal called the Rock Island Express is not a public utility and is not entitled to approval of its proposal to cross Illinois, and the decision is now on appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court.
- Federal law requires transmission lines to accept power from all sources. GBE is not really a "clean line".
- Failure of governor Nixon to involve landowners or county commissioners in negotiations with Clean Line.