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PROCEEDINGS

HEARING OFFICER: Let's get started tonight. Can I have everybody's attention, please? We have three hours to get through this tonight. There are so many people that have signed up to speak that I am going to have to limit it to three minutes apiece. If you have your written testimony, you can put it out at the desk and they will make sure that I get the written testimony if you don't wish to speak. If I call your name and you have changed your mind and don't want to speak, just say pass. Okay.

The other thing this evening is that we have so many people here tonight, I want to try to give everybody a chance to speak that wants to speak, but if something happens that you didn't get to speak tonight, you can always write it down and send it to me in e-mail form or send it to the Chief Clerk's Office in regular mail.

There are still a few people out

1 front signing in but we have to get  
2 started.

3 Rock Island Clean Line Docket Number  
4 12-0560, September 18, 2013. Good  
5 evening, everyone. My name is Robert  
6 Bensko and I serve as the Public Hearing  
7 Officer to the Illinois Commerce  
8 Commission as well as the Homeland  
9 Security Director.

10 I collect your comments and I have --  
11 I collect your comments but I have no  
12 input as to how this case is settled. I  
13 am impartial. I am just here tonight to  
14 receive your comments on the outline the  
15 company has requested.

16 Let me explain what the Rock Island  
17 Clean Line is all about.

18 They are the Petitioners seeking  
19 authority from the Illinois Commerce  
20 Commission under Section 8-406 and 8-503  
21 of the Public Utilities Act to construct  
22 and operate a high voltage electric  
23 transmission line.

24 The purpose of the line is to deliver

1 power from one generation project in a  
2 resource area located mainly in  
3 northwestern Iowa to load and population  
4 centers east of the Mississippi. The  
5 proposed line would originate in Iowa,  
6 cross the Mississippi River in Illinois  
7 south of Cordova and then extend over a  
8 preferred route approximately 120 miles in  
9 length where it would interconnect with  
10 the transmission system of PJM,  
11 interconnect at the Collins Substation in  
12 Grundy County.

13 The petitioner plans to use both  
14 lattice structure and two steel monopole  
15 structures for the project. Typical span  
16 length will be 1500 feet between  
17 structures where lattice structures are  
18 used and 1200 feet between structures  
19 where monopoles are used.

20 The Petitioner requests approval for  
21 a 200 foot right of way for the direct  
22 current DC section of the transmission  
23 line. For the alternating current AC  
24 section of the project Petitioner requests

1 right of way of 270 feet. Although the  
2 Petitioner is not requesting eminent  
3 domain authority in this process.

4 Further information about the  
5 proposed line is available on the  
6 Commission's website under E docket. The  
7 docket number is 12-0560. And search  
8 under the document.

9 Now let me explain the format for  
10 this hearing tonight. If you have signed  
11 in, if -- if you haven't signed in and  
12 want to comment, please go back in the  
13 outer office or outer vestibule and sign  
14 in. I will call speakers in the order in  
15 which they signed in. The stenographer is  
16 here to make a record of all comments. If  
17 you have written comments you can leave  
18 those at the desk out front. You may also  
19 file public comment with the ICC's website  
20 at [www.icc.illinois.gov](http://www.icc.illinois.gov). On the front  
21 page you will see the Public Comment  
22 option.

23 If you want to call in to make a  
24 comment you can dial 1-800-524-0795.

1           A public hearing is only one part of  
2           the process we review of the company's  
3           proposal.

4           The information in this case is  
5           maintained in the ICC's E-docket system  
6           under the docket number that I gave you.

7           An Administrative Law Judge has been  
8           assigned to review all of the testimony  
9           that is filed and to make a recommendation  
10          to the full five member Commission when  
11          the record is complete.

12          Company testimony has been filed in  
13          this docket. You can find all testimony  
14          through the ICC website.

15          Parties include -- the ICC staff may  
16          offer their own expertise testimony in  
17          this case. After all initial proposals  
18          and responses have been filed the parties  
19          meet in person to cross examine witnesses  
20          on their sworn testimony. Brief summaries  
21          of case petition are on file followed by a  
22          recommendation by the Administrative Law  
23          Judges to the Commissioners.

24          Now, if you have signed up to speak I

1 will call your name in the order in which  
2 you signed up. I want you to state your  
3 name and spell it so that the court  
4 reporter has an accurate record.

5 The other thing I want to tell you  
6 tonight is we have a few police officers  
7 here to make sure that everybody respects  
8 everybody else. Each one of us have had  
9 jobs over the years and you have had to do  
10 something that you might not have wanted  
11 to do but you were representing your  
12 company. And the people that are fighting  
13 this need their respect too. So if  
14 somebody comes up here to testify and you  
15 don't agree with what they are testifying  
16 for, that's your prerogative, but keep it  
17 to yourself. We don't have time to mess  
18 around with that tonight. Okay.

19 Now, the first person I am going to  
20 ask up here is the company. And I am  
21 going to ask Jimmy Glotfelty who is the  
22 Executive Vice President of Clean Line  
23 Energy Partners to come up and explain  
24 what the company is asking for.

1                   When I call on your names to speak  
2                   you can either go to the microphone over  
3                   there or the microphone over here. You  
4                   don't have to come up on the stage.

5                   So Jimmy --

6                   MR. GLOTFELTY: Thank you very  
7                   much. Can everybody hear me?

8                   My name is Jimmy Glotfelty and I am a  
9                   cofounder of Clean Line Energy Partners.

10                  I want to thank you for giving me the  
11                  opportunity to speak to you all tonight  
12                  and thank you all for coming out and  
13                  participating in this process.

14                  Finally I want to thank the  
15                  Commission and the court reporter whose  
16                  fingers are probably going to get tired  
17                  tonight. Thank you for your patience  
18                  tonight.

19                  Clean Line strongly believes this  
20                  project will bring major benefits to  
21                  Illinois and to our nation. These  
22                  benefits are in terms of low cost energy  
23                  that Illinois and the nation will require,  
24                  as well as benefits in terms of new jobs



1 and other economic drivers for our  
2 communities, our state and our nation.

3 We recognize that there is a tension  
4 between the benefits we expect and the  
5 impacts of this transmission route.

6 We have worked very hard to develop  
7 the least impactful route, but  
8 unfortunately there is no such thing as a  
9 transmission line with no impacts at all.

10 As a result of this reality we expect  
11 you all to have reasonable questions and  
12 comments and look forward to answering  
13 those tonight or as this process  
14 continues.

15 We started Clean Line Energy Partners  
16 in order to connect the best renewable  
17 energy resources in the country to a  
18 community who has a growing need for low  
19 cost renewable energy.

20 The nation's best onshore wind  
21 resources are in the Great Plains.  
22 Illinois has good wind resources but they  
23 are not sufficient to meet the growing  
24 need for renewable energy in this state as

1 well as states further east.

2 Our challenge as a nation is to build  
3 an efficient transmission system that  
4 shares these resources in the least  
5 impactful way.

6 Clean Line when we began this company  
7 embraced that challenge. And as a company  
8 we are developing five DC transmission  
9 lines to connect these best renewable  
10 resources to the electric power system.

11 Specifically the Rock Island Clean  
12 Line is a 500 mile overhead direct current  
13 transmission line that will enable about  
14 3500 megawatts of new wind energy to be  
15 delivered into the transmission grid in  
16 Illinois and in states further east.

17 It's really a new farm to market road  
18 for wind energy. That's what we like to  
19 say.

20 3500 megawatts is enough energy to  
21 power about 1.4 million homes. And to try  
22 to put that into perspective a little bit,  
23 it is about the size -- it produces about  
24 the same amount of energy as three Hoover

1 Dams. So it's a huge amount of energy  
2 that can be produced.

3 A little bit about direct current  
4 transmission lines. We are using overhead  
5 direct current lines because it is the  
6 most efficient way to move a lot of power  
7 a long distance.

8 The efficiency of DC lines results in  
9 a smaller right of way. We will need 145  
10 to 200 feet of right of way for the DC  
11 line. If we were going to try to move  
12 this much energy on an AC system, which  
13 are really the lines that you see around  
14 here, we would need a right of way three  
15 or four times that.

16 Our converter station in Illinois  
17 will be a 300 million-dollar investment  
18 located in Grundy County. It will  
19 generate millions of dollars of tax  
20 revenue to benefit local schools,  
21 emergency services, local governments and  
22 other local priorities.

23 Some people have reasonably asked if  
24 there is enough additional demand for this

1 project. To explain that a little bit,  
2 Illinois is part of an energy market  
3 called PJM. That includes Illinois, some  
4 other midwestern states and other states  
5 east of here. Many of those states have  
6 the renewable portfolio scanners. And  
7 between now and 2025 they are about  
8 20,000 megawatts short of their stated  
9 goals for renewable energies.

10 To put it bluntly, renewable energy  
11 goals in Illinois and around the region  
12 are going to need wind energy produced in  
13 this state as well as that energy that  
14 flows across the Rock Island Clean Line if  
15 they are even going to come close to their  
16 goals.

17 There are major economic benefits  
18 associated with this transmission line to  
19 Illinois and to the surrounding states.

20 The Rock Island Clean Line in total  
21 is a two billion dollar project.  
22 \$600 million of that investment will be  
23 here in this State of Illinois.

24 The project will support

1 manufacturing jobs, will create thousands  
2 of construction jobs. Many of those folks  
3 are here tonight. There are many other  
4 jobs for suppliers, for trucking  
5 companies, for concrete companies, for  
6 rebar companies that will have an  
7 opportunity to work on this project.

8 We are committed to working with  
9 local qualified vendors.

10 One example of that is a commitment  
11 that we made to buy our conductors, which  
12 is the electric wire, from South Wire.  
13 They will make all of the electric  
14 conductor for this line for Illinois.  
15 That will employ lots of people for many,  
16 many years. We met with many local  
17 construction partners -- again, many of  
18 them are here tonight -- and look forward  
19 to maximizing the use of local labor and  
20 other resources to build this line.

21 The Rock Island Clean Line will  
22 benefit you all, the consumers, as well.

23 This is a competitive electricity  
24 market that you all live in in Illinois.

1           And if you have additional wholesale  
2           electricity, what you do is you put  
3           pressure on price. Downward pressure on  
4           the price.

5                     Our studies show that the Rock Island  
6           Clean Line itself and in the first year  
7           alone can save the wholesale market  
8           upwards of \$320 million a year.

9                     We don't just say we are going to be  
10          a good neighbor, we want to be a good  
11          neighbor. We want to show you how we are  
12          going to be a good neighbor.

13                    We are a burden to counties at times.  
14          And what we have done is we have -- this  
15          is not mandated in any law or any  
16          regulation, but we have offered payments  
17          to Illinois counties that host the Rock  
18          Island Clean Line.

19                    Rock Island has offered to pay \$7,000  
20          per mile for each year for the next 20  
21          years.

22                    Should all six counties in Illinois  
23          that the Rock Island Clean Line would go  
24          through accept this offer we would be

1           paying \$840,000 a year for the next 20  
2           years in each of those six counties.

3           The Rock Island Clean Line will  
4           enable, as I said, more than  
5           3500 megawatts of clean renewable energy.  
6           Utilizing wind energy to meet our growing  
7           needs instead of more fossil fuels reduces  
8           the pollution significantly.

9           This project through the studies we  
10          have done and others have done, we show  
11          that it produces carbon, SOx, NOx,  
12          Mercury, as well as saves millions and  
13          millions of gallons of water on an annual  
14          basis.

15          We are using three structure types  
16          for this project. Lattice, lattice mast  
17          and monopole.

18          A Lattice mast and a monopole  
19          structure are basically the same base, a  
20          single round base foundation.

21          We committed to using -- we received  
22          lots of feedback on this issue. Lots of  
23          feedback that structure equipment across  
24          agriculture land need to be minimized.

1           And that is why we have committed to using  
2           lattice mast and monopole towers for the  
3           straight line structures on this project.

4                   Traditional lattice structure may be  
5           needed for river crossing or structures  
6           that are a heavier steel and are able to  
7           withstand a little bit more weight on them  
8           and they may be needed in some areas. So  
9           we are committed to using monopole or mast  
10          structures.

11                   We have included in this commitment  
12          an Agricultural Impact Mitigation  
13          Agreement that we have executed with the  
14          Illinois Department of Agriculture.

15                   This Illinois -- this Agriculture  
16          Impact Mitigation Agreement and everything  
17          that is in it will be included in all of  
18          the easement agreements that we sign so we  
19          are bound by that in a legal document with  
20          landowners that execute an easement  
21          agreement.

22                   As the ICC said, typical span length  
23          of 1200 feet for single structure  
24          foundation, which are the monopoles, and



1 1500 feet for the lattice. Typical lights  
2 are about 110 to 140 feet tall.

3 We believe that we are developing  
4 this project in a collaborative manner.  
5 We have sought input at every stage of our  
6 project. Input from community leaders,  
7 state and federal agencies and the public  
8 over the past three years to guide us to  
9 select the route that we have proposed.  
10 This route minimizes impact on homes,  
11 sensitive habitats and recreational areas  
12 as much as possible.

13 The most important part of this  
14 construction from our standpoint is  
15 landowner compensation.

16 When we began this company we wanted  
17 to be fair and honest. And what we have  
18 tried to do is create a compensation  
19 package that is fair to every landowner.

20 We want to compensate landowners with  
21 three different types of compensation.  
22 And the three different types of  
23 compensation add up to well more than  
24 100 percent of the fair market value of

1 the easements.

2 First and foremost is the easement  
3 payment. An easement payment is a one  
4 time payment worth 90 percent of the fair  
5 market value of the land in the easement  
6 area.

7 The value, the fair market value is  
8 determined through a study of comparable  
9 sales and uses in the county performed by  
10 an independent appraiser from Illinois.

11 In a unique type of payment we would  
12 like to pay landowners on a per structure  
13 basis.

14 So for each structure that is on your  
15 property we will pay you either a single  
16 payment or an annual payment based upon  
17 the number of structures that you have.  
18 This will last for as long as the  
19 structures are on the property.

20 It can -- the payments go with the  
21 property. So if you would like to hand  
22 that down to your children, those payments  
23 go with the property.

24 Depending upon the land and other

1           engineering conditions, we expect four to  
2           six structures per mile.

3                   Lastly is a damage payment.  If we  
4           damage your crops, if we damage your  
5           drainage tiles, if we create compaction  
6           problems on your land, we will either pay  
7           to have them fixed or compensate you to  
8           fix them yourself, whatever you prefer.

9                   Let me provide a quick example of a  
10          compensation package.

11                   If we had 145-foot easement across a  
12          half mile of land -- and just say  
13          hypothetically the land was worth \$8,000  
14          an acre.  I know some of these areas that  
15          is a little low, but for example purposes.  
16          And there are two structures on that land.  
17          The landowner would receive a payment of  
18          \$70,320 for the easement plus 6,000 for  
19          each structure, for a total payment of  
20          \$82,320.

21                   As landowners you all would have the  
22          rights to farm under this transmission  
23          line just as you normally do and just as  
24          you farm under other transmission lines in

1 the area.

2 We do have land agents here tonight  
3 if anybody would like to talk something  
4 specifically about their land. They will  
5 be in the area for many months to come as  
6 well.

7 I have covered a lot in a short  
8 period of time and I appreciate your  
9 indulgence to that and I appreciate you  
10 listening.

11 I want to thank the Commission again  
12 and thank each and every one of you for  
13 coming and participating in this process,  
14 letting us understand your issues. There  
15 is a lot of, as we see, misinformation out  
16 there, and we look forward to the  
17 opportunity to provide the correct  
18 information and set the record straight.

19 Thank you all very much. Thank you  
20 to the Commission.

21 HEARING OFFICER: There are two  
22 parts to -- there are two parts to  
23 tonight's hearing. The first part is  
24 when I ask you to come up and speak.

1           When that portion is over we will excuse  
2           the court reporter and then we will have  
3           a question and answer period.

4                    There can't be questions on the  
5           record because there is no provision in  
6           state law for cross-examination. So  
7           that's the way we have to do it.

8                    Three minutes I ask that you stick to  
9           tonight.

10                   I have a couple of people that  
11           represent the opposition tonight that need  
12           to get out of here and so I am going to  
13           let them go first.

14                    President of the Illinois Farm  
15           Bureau, Phillip Nelson.

16                    PHILLIP NELSON: Good evening.  
17           I am Phillip Nelson, President of the  
18           Illinois Farm Bureau. And I too want to  
19           thank the Commerce Commission for holding  
20           this public forum and allowing citizens  
21           to comment on the proposed Rock Island  
22           Clean Line project.

23                    The Illinois Farm Bureau is the  
24           largest farm organization, representing

1           82,000 members. We are opposed to the  
2           Clean Line project and have intervened in  
3           this case before the ICC.

4           Tonight I would like to address four  
5           main concerns that the Illinois Farm  
6           Bureau has with the project and why we  
7           want the ICC to deny Clean Line's request  
8           for public utility status and the right to  
9           construct the project.

10          Clean Line has not demonstrated first  
11          of all that there is a need to build this  
12          project.

13          Clean Line is a well connected  
14          startup company with a business plan to  
15          build a sole purpose DC line across prime  
16          Illinois farmland.

17          What the ICC has before it is a  
18          merchant line with no wind farms to  
19          generate electricity in Iowa, no  
20          subscribers to purchase the hypothetical  
21          electricity to be generated. No one  
22          between western Iowa and where the project  
23          is supposed to start and at the end of the  
24          line would have access to the power or be

1           able to connect to Clean Line's proposed  
2           transmission item. The cart is before the  
3           horse.

4                     We are especially concerned with the  
5           fact that need for this project was not  
6           vetted before either regional transmission  
7           planning authority. Neither PJM or MISO,  
8           which are the two regional transmission  
9           organizations in Illinois, has determined  
10          that this project is needed.

11                    Because this project has been  
12          proposed as a merchant line we understand  
13          that it doesn't have to go through these  
14          settings like most projects which seek  
15          cost allocation. But the ICC has to look  
16          at the big picture.

17                    Several high voltage transmission  
18          lines have been proposed to cross the  
19          state of Illinois. You can't build a  
20          transmission line without crossing  
21          farmland. But when at least eight  
22          transmission lines are proposed to cross  
23          Illinois farmland, the company must  
24          establish a need for the line. And the

1           ICC needs to take a hard look at projects  
2           that don't go through a comprehensive  
3           needs analysis before MISO or PJM.

4                    We understand that the purpose of the  
5           RTO is to ensure that the transmission  
6           system is reliable, efficient, and that it  
7           meets the renewable portfolio standards.  
8           And only those projects which meet  
9           multiple goals are approved by the RTOs  
10          and designated as multi-bound projects.

11                   Clean Line is not a part of either  
12          MISO or PJM's comprehensive gridded plan  
13          and deserves greater scrutiny by the ICC.

14                   Neither MISO or PJM have offered  
15          testimony which support the need for the  
16          project.  Silence speaks volumes.

17                   Number two, the ICC should not grant  
18          public utility status which would allow  
19          Clean Line to exercise eminent domain in  
20          the future.  Clean Line is a private  
21          company and their business motto is not  
22          like our public utilities.  We don't  
23          believe that Clean Line meets the  
24          definition of a public utility.



1           The ICC should not grant public  
2 utility status to a private company that  
3 hasn't built a single transmission line,  
4 owns no utility assets and has no track  
5 record on which anyone can rely.

6           As a merchant transmission line  
7 project Clean Line avoided the enhanced  
8 scrutiny a project seeking cost allocation  
9 undergoes at the regional planning level.  
10 But Clean Line is has already indicated  
11 that if this project qualifies for cost  
12 allocation they will seek it.

13           If that happens, customers will be  
14 stuck paying for all or part of the  
15 project.

16           That sounds like bait and switch.  
17 And we object to the ICC granting public  
18 utility status to a company that proposes  
19 to operate under this type of a business  
20 motto.

21           Number three, the proposed route does  
22 not follow existing road orders and  
23 private parts of prime farmland.

24           It is cited to go the shortest

1 distance between two points. In many  
2 cases the route crosses farmland on a  
3 diagonal, doesn't follow proper section  
4 lines, which makes it even more difficult  
5 to farm.

6 Prime farmland should not be split by  
7 transmission lines.

8 Transmission lines impact our ability  
9 to apply pesticides, use irrigation,  
10 causes impaction and damage to our  
11 drainage tiles.

12 The fourth reason that we would  
13 oppose this is Clean Line recently filed  
14 the Ag Mitigation Agreement, which you  
15 heard recently about that, and agreed to  
16 use the monopole structure but only where  
17 the line is straight or short enough.  
18 They still haven't committed to using the  
19 monopole structure for the entire project.  
20 They want to be able to use a lattice  
21 tower wherever it makes turns on the line.  
22 It may cost Clean Line more dollars if  
23 they use monopole structures to make all  
24 the turns, just as other public utilities

1 in this area have done.

2 The lattice structure takes far more  
3 land out of production. When looking at  
4 the real impact on the farmland the ICC  
5 needs to look at more than the space of  
6 the foundation and the pole in their  
7 fields. We have to farm around these  
8 lines. Where they are located impacts the  
9 true cost to farming. The line itself  
10 impacts farming operations and our ability  
11 to expand future operations.

12 For these and other reasons we have  
13 requested the ICC deny Clean Line's  
14 petition to build the proposed  
15 transmission line and also conduct a  
16 comprehensive inquiry into the need for  
17 all transmission lines which have been  
18 proposed to the State of Illinois.

19 An inquiry would allow the ICC policy  
20 makers and stakeholders to better  
21 understand Illinois's potential for future  
22 transmission projects and provide affected  
23 landowners a better understanding of the  
24 need and the value of the projects that

1 are proposed in our state. Such an  
2 inquiry would result in information on how  
3 proposed projects interact or overlap.

4 Duplication of these projects would  
5 cause unnecessary impacts to the value of  
6 valuable farmland and unnecessary costs to  
7 the taxpayers.

8 Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER: The Fire  
10 Marshall says we have exceeded the number  
11 of people in this room. There are a  
12 number of seats empty. Raise your hand  
13 if you have a seat that is empty next to  
14 you. All of the people that are standing  
15 up against the wall, you are either going  
16 to have to leave the room or look for a  
17 seat. Everybody that doesn't have a seat  
18 according to your Fire Marshall -- on the  
19 outside edges, everybody move to the  
20 center.

21  
22 (Whereupon an off the  
23 record discussion was  
24 held.)

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HEARING OFFICER: Alyssa  
Dolder. If I missaid your name tonight,  
please excuse me.

You can use the microphones, flip the  
microphone on.

ALYSSA DOLDER: All right. My  
name is Alyssa Dolder. A-L-Y-S-S-A,  
D-O-L-D-E-R. My sister Lea and I are the  
fifth generation to live on the Dolder  
family farm that RICL wants to desecrate.

I don't understand why Illinois would  
allow wealthy investors from another state  
to increase their personal wealth at a  
huge cost to Illinois taxpayers and  
residents.

My father told me we won't even be  
able to use any power from the  
transmission lines. In fact, very few  
Illinois residents will be able to use  
this power.

Nobody is to believe that this  
project if completed, that Illinois power  
consumers will have reduced rates.

1           Instead, current and future taxpayers and  
2           residents will pay for this project.

3           Our family would like written  
4           reassurance by Hans Detweiler and Michael  
5           Skelly that midwest electricity users will  
6           never pay for this project through price  
7           allocation.

8           My dad has been a member of the  
9           LaSalle County Board Review for 14 years.  
10          This group views real estate tax  
11          complaints. The verbal complaints have  
12          just begun. If this project is approved  
13          the amount of written complaints  
14          concerning real estate values will be  
15          huge.

16          In the end, LaSalle County property  
17          values will be deflated along this route.  
18          This will impact townships and county  
19          government. Schools, roads, police, fire  
20          protection and all county agencies will  
21          lose revenue.

22          All of these previous concerns that I  
23          talked about are important. However, the  
24          most crucial issue concerning the

1 placement of these DC lines are the known  
2 and unknown health and safety risks.

3 Our family is convinced that this is  
4 an unnecessary and extremely harmful  
5 project. It will negatively impact  
6 Illinois, LaSalle County and all townships  
7 involved.

8 Our home and farm as well as all of  
9 the others along this route will be  
10 damaged.

11 Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER: I forgot you,  
13 Wayne. Wayne Anderson, Board of  
14 Directors, District Three.

15 And to that little girl, you did a  
16 wonderful job.

17 WAYNE ANDERSON: That is going  
18 to be a very hard act to follow.

19 Good evening. As I said, I am Wayne  
20 Anderson. I am a farmer and I serve as  
21 the Director on the Illinois Farm Bureau  
22 Board.

23 A little over two years ago I  
24 attended a meeting where Rock Island Clean

1 Line proposed to bring transmission lines  
2 through northern Illinois. Rock Island  
3 Clean Line claimed they would bring jobs  
4 and revenue to the area in addition to  
5 lowering the cost of electricity to  
6 consumers. But the more I listened, I  
7 quickly realized that this was no more  
8 than a one way super highway to carry  
9 electricity with no on and offramps.

10 Wind farms in Illinois would not be  
11 allowed nor able to add electricity to the  
12 grid which could generate revenue for  
13 landowners and tax revenue for the state.

14 This would also not generate any rate  
15 relief for Illinois consumers. In fact,  
16 Rock Island Clean Line's proposal allows  
17 for varying compensation for those farming  
18 operations that are impacted by the Rock  
19 Island Clean Line. This proposal  
20 footprint for farmland would not allow  
21 established existing right of ways,  
22 property boundaries -- would not follow,  
23 excuse me, established existing right of  
24 ways, property boundaries or section lines



1 with no regard to existing irrigation in  
2 the area.

3 The farmers would not agree to enter  
4 into these easements for this project.  
5 Rock Island Clean Line may be able to use  
6 the power of eminent domain to take  
7 private land for private gain if the ICC  
8 grants the (inaudible).

9 Unfortunately when dealing with  
10 transmission lines as farmers we know the  
11 companies pay less than market value  
12 involved in any compensation for the  
13 farmers for devaluation of the land,  
14 permanent loss and productivity and  
15 additional production cost and loss of  
16 future development.

17 This proposed line will carry power  
18 directly to the east coast with no access  
19 to Illinois consumers. In fact, Rock  
20 Island Clean Line has presented this plan  
21 as a merchant project with no guarantee of  
22 revenue. They want to reserve the right  
23 to change the character of the project to  
24 one that will guarantee -- have guaranteed

1 revenue through a rate base cost  
2 allocation project. If that would happen  
3 some portion of the cost of this project  
4 will be passed on to consumers in Illinois  
5 without their consent.

6 This project does nothing to prove  
7 the reliability and security of Illinois  
8 but could come at a huge cost to the  
9 electric consumers.

10 Also any jobs created would be  
11 temporary and just construction jobs.

12 Knowing that there are eight other  
13 transmission line projects being proposed,  
14 my request is that the ICC take a  
15 comprehensive look at all of these  
16 requests in addition to the Rock Island  
17 Clean Line. I would hate to see a  
18 mishmash of poles and lines polluting our  
19 beautiful Illinois landscape without  
20 determining the real cost. These are  
21 electrical highways that provide no  
22 safety, no help to our grid and could  
23 cause -- I believe the hodgepodge approach  
24 to these proposals would be a huge

1                   disservice to the state and its residents.  
2                   Thank you.

3                                 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
4                   Kevin Urick.

5                                 KEVIN URICK: My name is Kevin  
6                   Urick. K-E-V-I-N, U-R-I-C-K.

7                                 I am a farmer from northern Henry  
8                   County impacted by the Rock Island Clean  
9                   Line proposal and I am here representing  
10                  Henry County Farm Bureau as its President.

11                                The Henry County Farm Bureau is  
12                  opposed to the Rock Island Clean Line  
13                  electric transmission project. Rock  
14                  Island Clean Line, a private Limited  
15                  Liability Company, is not a public utility  
16                  and should not be granted public utility  
17                  status by the ICC. The proposed Rock  
18                  Island Clean Line does not serve a public  
19                  purpose and there is no validation to  
20                  authorize the taking of private land for  
21                  private gain.

22                                Rock Island Clean Line is seeking to  
23                  construct its transmission lines for the  
24                  benefit of out of state constituents on

1 the backs of Illinois farmers and  
2 landowners.

3 The agriculture industry is vital to  
4 the economy of our state. And our farmers  
5 and landowners would be negatively  
6 impacted by the transmission line.

7 We request that the Illinois Commerce  
8 Commission deny the application for the  
9 Rock Island Clean Line.

10 Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

12 Bob Vogl.

13 BOB VOGEL: Bob Vogl. V-O-G-L.

14 My wife and I believe it is essential  
15 to include the environmental  
16 considerations in all economic activities.

17 A major concern is the consumption of  
18 fossil fuels that came into use in  
19 conservation energy efficiency and use of  
20 renewable energy resources.

21 We own a small solo electric and wind  
22 installation. We encourage others to  
23 consider that option for its environmental  
24 value and sense of energy security and its

1 contribution to the local power.

2 Our society's response to challenge  
3 the farming change and dwindling supply of  
4 low cost fossil fuels is far from  
5 adequate. The potential presence of an  
6 additional power line vetted from wind  
7 energy sources is a small piece of a very  
8 complex puzzle.

9 As farmers we appreciate you consider  
10 the farmers impacted by the potential  
11 insulation of the line. Reasonable people  
12 that have reasonable questions. And we  
13 know some of the people at the Rock Island  
14 very well and they have been involved in  
15 renewable energy development for a long  
16 time, and we encourage that people discuss  
17 their concerns with them.

18 Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
20 sir.

21 Ron Hancock.

22 RONALD HANCOCK: Good evening.  
23 My name is Ronald, R-O-N-A-L-D, Hancock,  
24 H-A-N-C-O-C-K.

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I am the President and owner of  
Hancock Carriers, Incorporated.

Some of you folks may know this and  
some you may not. We are from Olney,  
Illinois, home of white squirrels. Only  
three places in the world that white  
squirrels will live.

That's what we call the fun fact.

What's not a so fun fact is that  
Richland County has an the unemployment  
rate of 10.7.

At the present time we have 50  
employees. And by supplying Rock Island  
Clean Line we would be able to help the  
unemployment in our community.

Not only would we be adding drivers  
but increase office personnel and  
technicians in our maintenance shop.

And in addition to the employees,  
adding employees, our company partnership  
with Rock Island Line, which helps support  
our community, as we buy as local as we  
can such as fuel, tires, our lovely  
uniform company, the local food stores and

1 such. And the partnership and other  
2 retail businesses in our area would see  
3 increased revenue. And the added  
4 additions, we hope this would give them an  
5 opportunity to see increase in their  
6 business as well.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to  
8 speak. And if you ever want to see a  
9 white squirrel, give me a call. I will  
10 give you a personal tour.

11 HEARING OFFICER: I have been  
12 to Olney many times and I have seen those  
13 white squirrels. My wife told me I was a  
14 white squirrel.

15 Curt Degner.

16 CURT DEGNER: We have black  
17 squirrels in our neighborhood. I am  
18 Curt, C-U-R-T, Degner, D-E-G-N-E-R.

19 I work for a small company located  
20 just outside of the Quad Cities, Taylor  
21 Ridge, Drilled Foundations. And the  
22 business we are in is drilling caissons  
23 that would hold the towers that would hold  
24 the power lines. And this project to us

1 would represent -- we are a very small  
2 company. It would represent to us months  
3 and months of work for our company. We  
4 employ probably two or three drill crews,  
5 union drill crews. And in addition to  
6 that it would take literally hundreds of  
7 thousands of tons of rebar which would all  
8 be purchased locally. And it would take  
9 thousands -- hundreds of thousands of  
10 cubic yards of concrete going into these  
11 projects. And as I said, how many per  
12 mile, and we are talking about it would be  
13 a big impact going through our community.

14 That's all I have. Thank you.

15 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
16 Curt.

17 Sheri Fieweger.

18 SHERI FIEWEGER: My name is  
19 Sheri Fieweger. S-H-E-R-I,  
20 F-I-E-W-E-G-E-R.

21 The Rock Island Clean Line matters to  
22 me because access to affordable energy has  
23 become essential to the functioning of our  
24 communities.



1                   However, the uneven distribution of  
2 fossil fuel supplies among countries and  
3 critical need to widely access energy  
4 resources has led to significant energy  
5 security vulnerability nationwide.

6                   For example, the demand for petroleum  
7 is rising, and if left unchecked would  
8 accentuate our nation's vulnerability to  
9 severe supply destruction and sudden price  
10 increases.

11                  So the rapid deployment of renewable  
12 energy could offer energy efficiency and  
13 technological diversification of energy  
14 sources, resulting in significant energy  
15 security and economic benefits.

16                  There are a number of threats to  
17 global energy securing. The Fukushima  
18 nuclear accidents in Japan, for example,  
19 demonstrate that national energy systems  
20 are vulnerable to natural disasters and  
21 provide a rationale for investing in  
22 renewable energy.

23                  I support renewable energy  
24 opportunities for our communities. Thank

1                   you.

2                                   HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
3                   John Dollinger.

4                                   JOHN DOLLINGER: My name is  
5                   John Dollinger, J-O-H-N,  
6                   D-O-L-L-I-N-G-E-R. I live in Grundy  
7                   County, Illinois. My family have been  
8                   farmers in that area dating back to the  
9                   mid 1800s. We own farmland and we rent  
10                  farmland from others.

11                                  I support the alternative energy  
12                  projects as I supported the use of ethanol  
13                  made from corn. I think it is important  
14                  that we address our energy needs within  
15                  our own country.

16                                  I am opposed to spending resources in  
17                  foreign countries to ensure our energy  
18                  needs. Enough money in life has been  
19                  spent in the middle east in pursuit of a  
20                  reliable supply of energy.

21                                  I think alternative forms of energy  
22                  are part of the solution to our nation's  
23                  demand, as are the more traditional forms  
24                  of oil and gas.

1                   Agriculture is a major user of  
2                   electricity and energy of all kinds.

3                   I support projects that will ensure  
4                   there is abundant energy for us far into  
5                   the future.

6                   Previously I mentioned ethanol.  
7                   There are lots of people who did not  
8                   support the benefits of ethanol, but today  
9                   one-third of our total corn crop is used  
10                  in the production of ethanol. It has  
11                  significantly increased the price of corn  
12                  to the farmer. It has increased the value  
13                  you our farmland.

14                  The agriculture industry worked hard  
15                  to build this industry in the face of  
16                  opposition from many. As a farmer I am  
17                  certainly glad that the ethanol industry  
18                  is alive and well today.

19                  I think it is only fair we support  
20                  other alternative energy projects as we in  
21                  agriculture have received support for our  
22                  alternative energy source.

23                  The Clean Line energy projects which  
24                  I stand and support today will go through

1 property which we both own and rent from  
2 others. I have experience dealing with  
3 other companies in the alternative energy  
4 field. We have wind towers on property  
5 which we farm. We farm around electric  
6 towers owned by Commonwealth Edison. We  
7 have dealt with gas and oil pipelines  
8 going through our properties. Working  
9 with Clean Line Energy, they have been as  
10 professional as any company I have dealt  
11 with. They have listened to my concerns  
12 and have made every effort to make the  
13 effect of the projects on my farmland as  
14 minimal as possible.

15 Certainly it would be easier not to  
16 farm around towers, not to have pipelines  
17 running through our farms, but every time  
18 I throw the electric switch or heat my  
19 home with gas I am glad the energy is  
20 available to us.

21 I often imagine what it would be like  
22 in the days before electricity.

23 I support the Clean Line Energy  
24 project and I would expect that it would

1 be fair with all landowners affected by  
2 the project. I believe the project should  
3 be built.

4 Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
6 sir.

7 Nancy Ammer.

8 NANCY AMMER: Good evening. My  
9 name is Nancy Ammer, N-A-N-C-Y,  
10 A-M-M-E-R.

11 The Rock Island Clean Line is an  
12 important infrastructure project that  
13 would create jobs, contribute to Grundy  
14 County's tax base and allow Grundy County  
15 to continue its leadership role in energy  
16 infrastructure.

17 The project will also support our  
18 state's effort to become energy  
19 independent.

20 We support the Clean Line project and  
21 encourage the ICC to approve this  
22 important economic development initiative.

23 The Grundy County Development  
24 Counsel, of which I work, has been in

1 Grundy County since 1994. We are a not  
2 for profit organization and we foster and  
3 encourage partnerships between business,  
4 labor, community and energy sectors. We  
5 work hard to create a positive business  
6 environment in Grundy County, but most  
7 important we work hard to encourage  
8 investment and create jobs and retain jobs  
9 in our community. We offer a competitive  
10 advantage when it comes to energy in  
11 Grundy County. We have a portfolio of  
12 existing industries and also labor force  
13 that is well trained to support it and  
14 ready to contribute hundreds of workers to  
15 the construction of this project.

16 We have long played an important role  
17 in our state's energy infrastructure and  
18 we are well positioned for future growth  
19 of the energy structure.

20 We have assets that include  
21 generating stations, network of natural  
22 gas pipelines and plants and renewable  
23 wind assets and also quite an impressive  
24 power transmission line that includes the

1 backbone of a 765kV line, of which  
2 attracted Clean Line to our area.

3 The 500 mile project will end in  
4 Grundy County.

5 The Rock Island Clean Line converter  
6 station is projected to be about a  
7 \$300 million investment, which is a  
8 tremendous boost to the economy of Grundy  
9 County.

10 The transmission line itself will be  
11 another 300 million, which would bring the  
12 total investment in Illinois to over  
13 600 million.

14 Our schools, emergency services,  
15 library, park district, township, road,  
16 local governments all stand to benefit by  
17 this investment with paying of annual  
18 property taxes in millions of dollars.  
19 All of these services contribute to the  
20 quality of life for all of the residents  
21 in Grundy County and beyond.

22 The Rock Island Clean Line project is  
23 an important economic development project  
24 that will boost our local economy and most

1                   importantly put people to work in both  
2                   Grundy and LaSalle County, who have double  
3                   digit unemployment.

4                   Investments like this putting workers  
5                   back to work in the construction trades  
6                   and others will be a benefit to Grundy  
7                   County and many surrounding counties and I  
8                   encourage the Illinois Commerce Commission  
9                   to approve this project.

10                  Thank you.

11                                 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
12                   Dr. Patrick Halloran.

13                                 PAT HALLORAN: Good evening.  
14                   My name is Pat, P-A-T, H-A-L-L-O-R-A-N.  
15                   I am the Superintendent of Morris  
16                   Community High School. And with me is  
17                   Kathy Perry, K-A-T-H-Y, P-E-R-R-Y,  
18                   Superintendent of Saratoga Consolidated  
19                   School District 60, both located in  
20                   Morris.

21                                 Thank you for the opportunity to  
22                   speak at this public hearing.

23                                 Morris is located in Grundy County  
24                   and the proposed converter station for the



1 Rock Island Clean Line project will be  
2 located within our school boundaries.  
3 MCHS and Saratoga School Districts support  
4 the Rock Island Clean Line project because  
5 of the positive financial impact it will  
6 have on our school district.

7 Our school districts have lost a  
8 combined \$1.5 million due to a 15 percent  
9 decline in equalized assessed valuation  
10 over the past three years.

11 As you may know, Illinois ranks last  
12 in financial support for public schools.

13 Decline in general state aid has  
14 resulted in a combined loss of \$415,915  
15 over the last three years. Deepening the  
16 fund deficits adds additional stress on  
17 local taxes payors.

18 Some time ago we entered into good  
19 faith negotiations with Hans Detweiler and  
20 the Clean Line team with the notion that  
21 the construction of a converter station in  
22 Grundy County would be positive. It would  
23 create much needed construction jobs and  
24 generate tax revenues without adding

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students to the school district.

In February 2013 the two school districts approved worksheets with Clean Line that included a one time payment to our schools totaling over \$4 million in addition to subsequent tax payments.

The revenues generated by this investment in our community can assist in providing upgrades for our aging facilities, reduce operating deficits and help our local tax payors.

In closing, Morris Community High School and Saratoga Community Consolidated School District 60 support the Rock Island Clean Line project because of the positive economic benefits for our schools and community.

Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

Missy Durkin.

MISSY DURKIN: Missy Durkin,

M-I-S-S-Y, D-U-R-K-I-N.

I have a statement to share on behalf of the City of Morris.

1                   The Rock Island Clean Line is  
2                   important to our community, our state and  
3                   our country and I encourage the Illinois  
4                   Commerce Commission to approve this  
5                   important economic development project.

6                   The city of Morris has a rich history  
7                   of supporting infrastructure projects. In  
8                   1839, villagers built the Shakey Bridge  
9                   across the Nettle Creek to influence the  
10                  stagecoach lines to travel through the  
11                  village.

12                 With the opening of the IM Canal  
13                 growth continued. The IM Canal is one of  
14                 Morris' greatest assets. Beginning in  
15                 Chicago and ending in LaSalle, it was the  
16                 first link between the Great Lakes and the  
17                 Mississippi River. Immediately grain  
18                 prices tripled in value as this became the  
19                 prime mode of transportation of farmers.

20                 The Rock Island Clean Line is another  
21                 piece of important infrastructure related  
22                 to one of our nations' most important  
23                 assets, domestically produced clean  
24                 energy.

1                   The Rock Island Clean Line is  
2                   delivering 3500 megawatts low cost wind  
3                   power from northwest Iowa to surrounding  
4                   regions in Illinois. The 500-mile line  
5                   ends in Grundy County in Morris. Since  
6                   the Rock Island Clean Line is transporting  
7                   this power over direct current  
8                   transmission lines, a converter station is  
9                   needed to convert the power to alternating  
10                  current so it can be used in our homes and  
11                  businesses.

12                  The converter station is projected to  
13                  be about a \$300 million investment. A  
14                  tremendous economic boost to our area.

15                  Along with this investment comes many  
16                  benefits for the community, schools,  
17                  emergency services, local government and  
18                  other public services.

19                  The City of Morris will benefit from  
20                  the Rock Island Clean Line in several  
21                  ways. The Morris High School and Saratoga  
22                  School Districts will receive millions of  
23                  dollars when construction begins. This  
24                  level of investment in our schools will

1           have a significant impact on our  
2           community.

3                   Our local firefighters and ambulance  
4           services, the Morris Library, the Park  
5           District, the Township Road Services,  
6           Joliet Junior College, the Village of  
7           Channahon in Grundy County all stand to  
8           benefit from the Rock Island Clean Line  
9           investment in our community.

10                   All of these services contribute to  
11           Morris' reputation of having big city  
12           amenities with charming small town  
13           atmosphere.

14                   I've had the pleasure to personally  
15           meet with representatives of the Rock  
16           Island Clean Line. My staff and I have  
17           found them to be easy to work with, open  
18           to our input and caring about our  
19           community.

20                   I would encourage members of the  
21           community who have transmission lines on  
22           their property to be open to discussions  
23           with Rock Island Clean Line because they  
24           have been good partners to our community.

1           The Rock Island Clean Line is another  
2           important infrastructure that will add to  
3           Morris' rich history and contribute to its  
4           future success.

5           I encourage the Illinois Commerce  
6           Commission to approve this project.  
7           Sincerely, City of Morris, Mayor Richard  
8           Kopczick. Thank you.

9           HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
10          Tom Conway.

11          TOM CONWAY: Tom Conway, T-O-M,  
12          C-O-N-W-A-Y.

13          I am Regional Program Manager for the  
14          Blue Green Alliance. Blue Green Alliance  
15          is a union and environmental organization  
16          to advance the number of quality jobs in  
17          the clean economy.

18          Thank you for the opportunity to  
19          provide comments in support for Rock  
20          Island Clean Line project.

21          The Rock Island project is a great  
22          example about how America --  
23          (inaudible) -- jobs while taking steps to  
24          combat climate change and the current

1 infrastructure to make major barriers for  
2 employment in renewable energy and reduce  
3 the carbon footprint and increase economic  
4 benefits that come with it.

5 I am a proud member of the United  
6 States Steel Workers. We manufacture  
7 gears, rotors and wind turbines at various  
8 locations throughout the country,  
9 including work in Illinois. In stark  
10 contrast from other infrastructures, Clean  
11 Line is committed to using --  
12 (inaudible) -- for projects and local  
13 workers for their installation. They will  
14 be employing thousands of laborers,  
15 electrical workers and operating  
16 engineers.

17 The twenty-first century clean  
18 economy requires modern electricity during  
19 farming and clean sources of energy  
20 efficiently and securely. Blue Green Line  
21 supports policies and follows procedures  
22 that -- (inaudible) -- a steel utility  
23 workforce.

24 Thank you.

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HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

Joe Pena.

JOE PENA: Good evening. My name is Joe Pena, J-O-E, P-E-N-A. I am the former Police Chief and current Village Administrative Director of Public Safety for the Village of Channahon.

I am here this evening to encourage the Illinois Commerce Commission to consider approval of the Rock Island Clean Line project. It's an economic development project that is important to my community. The project will provide much needed revenues to our community and further diversify our tax load and will put less of a burden on our community for tax revenue.

As former Police Chief I often had to find ways to seek additional funding to provide quality law enforcement services to the community. And now as Village Administrator I find myself in the position to continue to have to look at ways to cut spending without negatively



1           impacting those services. The Village of  
2           Channahon is a growing community. Having  
3           grown by more than 70 percent since 2000.  
4           We support economic development projects  
5           such as the Clean Line project which would  
6           contribute to our local government's  
7           ability to provide quality services to the  
8           residents. The investment in our  
9           community goes from our law enforcement  
10          services, waste and wastewater treatment,  
11          public works facilities and community  
12          development initiatives, all stand to  
13          benefit from the project. Channahon Park  
14          District, township road services and area  
15          schools will also benefit from Rock Island  
16          Clean Line's investment in our community.

17                 All of these services contribute to  
18          Channahon's ability to achieve our mission  
19          to strengthen and maintain Channahon as a  
20          family oriented, attractive community that  
21          provides a quality place to live.

22                 In addition to the much government  
23          funding, our community will benefit from  
24          jobs that will be created to build the

1 station in Channahon as well as construct  
2 transmission lines.

3 Our state will benefit by the  
4 increased electrical supplies and the  
5 fact -- and our nation will benefit  
6 because this transmission line will enable  
7 more clean lines throughout the country to  
8 be part of our country's electricity mix.

9 We count on supporters for  
10 infrastructure projects in the past that  
11 have led to the growth as we have  
12 experienced to date. The economic  
13 development projects may not have been  
14 popular when they were under consideration  
15 but ultimately they have served our  
16 community well.

17 The crossroads of I55 and I80  
18 impacted four class one railroads that  
19 served the area in close proximity to the  
20 new center point for mobile -- (inaudible)  
21 -- enabling an energy project to tap into  
22 our existing infrastructure will only add  
23 to our infrastructure with capabilities to  
24 (inaudible) -- the Rock Island Clean Line

1 is another important infrastructure  
2 project that contributes to our community  
3 and I would encourage your consideration.

4 Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

6 Mike Hampson.

7 MIKE HAMPSON: Good evening.

8 Mike Hampson, M-I-K-E, H-A-M-P-S-O-N.

9 I am the Executive Director of Fox  
10 Valley Associated General Contractors,  
11 representing over 100 contractors and  
12 suppliers in the construction industry.  
13 Our members work in the communities in  
14 which this project -- project will be  
15 built. We hire qualified union members  
16 that also live in the communities. Fox  
17 Valley and its members support the Rock  
18 Island Clean Line. It will help create  
19 jobs, support local communities and  
20 represent renewable energy, which  
21 contractors are working hard to put into  
22 everything that they build these days.  
23 Thank you.

24 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,

1                   sir.

2                   Marshall Legenza.

3                   MARSHALL LEGENZA: I am  
4 Marshall Legenza, M-A-R-S-H-A-L-L,  
5 L-E-G-E-N-Z-A.

6                   I am an Illinois resident and I work  
7 in the construction industry. I proudly  
8 support the Clean Line project. I believe  
9 it is great for the State of Illinois.  
10 This project will create hundreds of much  
11 needed jobs to the people of Illinois.  
12 Also the project will reduce our country's  
13 dependence on foreign energy and helps our  
14 environment.

15                   Thank you for your time.

16                   HEARING OFFICER: Charles  
17 Meisenheimer.

18                   CHARLES MEISENHEIMER: My name  
19 is Charles Meisenheimer, C-H-A-R-L-E-S,  
20 M-E-I-S-E-N-H-E-I-M-E-R. I am District  
21 One Director as well as Policy Task Force  
22 Chairman of the Bureau County Farm  
23 Bureau.

24                   The Bureau County Farm Bureau of

1 Directors is opposed to the Rock Island  
2 Clean Line transmission project proposed  
3 allocation across northern Illinois.

4 Four primary reasons are number one,  
5 Clean Line is a private entity and should  
6 not be granted public utility status as  
7 the company requests.

8 Number two, Clean Line should be  
9 denied eminent domain authority as it  
10 would take private land for the purpose of  
11 private gain.

12 Number three, Clean Line has not  
13 testified to use of lattice structures to  
14 make turns.

15 Number four, Clean Line should use  
16 property lines rather than following a  
17 route that has to go diagonally across  
18 open farmland.

19 Given the above concerns about the  
20 proposed project, we respectfully request  
21 the Illinois Commerce Commission deny the  
22 application for certificate of convenience  
23 and necessity to the Clean Line Energy  
24 Partners.

1 Thank you, sir.

2 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
3 Nick King.

4 NICK KING: My name is Nick  
5 King, N-I-C-K, K-I-N-G. Illinois  
6 resident, construction worker. I want  
7 the Rock Island Clean Line to bring jobs  
8 to the workers and local businesses.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
10 William Haas.

11 WILLIAM HAAS: Good evening.  
12 My name is William Haas. I am an  
13 Illinois citizen. W-I-L-L-I-A-M,  
14 H-A-A-S.

15 I have had the pleasure of working in  
16 renewable energy and energy efficiency  
17 field for over ten years, holding  
18 positions in the environmental not for  
19 profit, the Illinois Department of  
20 Commerce and Economic Opportunity and in  
21 the private sector.

22 This experience has given me a  
23 broader perspective regarding a project  
24 like this.

1           The Rock Island Clean Line project is  
2 exactly the kind of project that our  
3 nation needs. It provides jobs. It  
4 provides clean renewable energy and has  
5 been developed to have minimal impact.

6           Because the project is direct  
7 current, not alternating current, it can  
8 transfer very large amounts of power  
9 within a smaller footprint. It moves the  
10 equivalent of three times of Hoover Dam on  
11 an annual basis on an easement width only  
12 145 to 200 feet wide. It is a remarkable  
13 accomplishment and a remarkable amount of  
14 power.

15           Also, because it is so much power, it  
16 will bring benefits to consumers.

17           An estimated 320 million in wholesale  
18 market price reductions in the first year.

19           The company isn't the only one saying  
20 that. The Illinois Power Agency in their  
21 letter to the ICC indicated that the depth  
22 and competitiveness of the market would  
23 add to long running consumer benefits.  
24 This is the reality. The project benefits

1 Illinois customers, consumers, and wishing  
2 that away will not make it true.

3 In addition, the IEPA's letter stated  
4 this project will allow for approximately  
5 3500 megawatts of new wave generation  
6 capacity.

7 The Illinois Renewable Portfolio  
8 Standard requires 25 percent renewable  
9 power by 2025. Today we are at 7 percent.  
10 Illinois needs a lot more renewable power  
11 and other neighboring states require  
12 additional renewable power as well.

13 We are in a common market with that.  
14 I hope and believe that Illinois can  
15 double and triple the amount of wind it  
16 has installed today. But even if Illinois  
17 does so, Rock Island will still be needed.

18 We are all Americans. We need to  
19 build things in this country. If we don't  
20 build anything our economy will slowly  
21 crumble.

22 We need to pull together and support  
23 projects like this that make sense for a  
24 lot of reasons.



1                   Finally, throughout my career I have  
2                   had the opportunity to work with some of  
3                   the folks at Clean Line and I have found  
4                   them to be professional, knowledgeable and  
5                   good people to work with. I strongly  
6                   encourage you to speak with them, work  
7                   with them. You may like what you find.  
8                   Thank you.

9                   HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
10                  Barry Beetz.

11                  BARRY BEETZ: Barry Beetz,  
12                  B-A-R-R-Y, B-E-E-T-Z.

13                  Good evening. I am a farmer and also  
14                  serve on LaSalle County Farm Bureau Board  
15                  of Directors.

16                  On behalf of LaSalle County Farm  
17                  Bureau, I am here tonight to voice our  
18                  opposition to the Clean Line Energy  
19                  project acquiring public utility status.

20                  There are several issues as to why we  
21                  feel their petition should be denied.

22                  First of all, because Rock Island  
23                  Clean Line Energy is a private company it  
24                  should not be granted a public utility

1 status and therefore should be denied  
2 eminent domain authority.

3 In the past few years our state has  
4 seen a significant increase in the number  
5 of wind farms erected to provide  
6 electricity locally. We feel that if  
7 these existing wind farms could run at  
8 capacity they would have enough  
9 electricity to provide to the grid system  
10 that they are seeking.

11 Also, farmland is our most valuable  
12 resource and taking farmland out of  
13 production for such a project is  
14 unwarranted.

15 They have requested that their  
16 proposed line be constructed diagonally  
17 across prime farmland. We feel this is  
18 totally unnecessary. The routes proposed  
19 would carve up prime existing farmland and  
20 do not follow established existing right  
21 of ways, property boundaries or section  
22 lines.

23 Rock Island Clean Line is seeking to  
24 construct its transmission line for the

1 benefit of out of state constituents on  
2 the backs of Illinois farmers and  
3 landowners. Rock Island Clean Line is  
4 offering no protection to landowners who  
5 are to be burdened with the towers and  
6 lines in the event they are constructed  
7 and expected new generators or customers  
8 do not develop and the facilities have to  
9 be scrapped. This creates a real and  
10 unreasonable risk of becoming a stranded  
11 asset and abandonment with no financial  
12 security to be provided.

13 Wind energy developers in Illinois  
14 typically do provide such financial  
15 security.

16 By contrast, other typical  
17 transmission utilities have other assets  
18 that can be looked to in order to enforce  
19 the utility's obligations.

20 In addition, Rock Island Clean Line  
21 has given inadequate consideration to the  
22 legitimate objections of landowners and to  
23 the effects of the projects on the plants,  
24 animals and environments in the state.

1                   It is for these reasons that the  
2                   LaSalle County Farm Bureau respectfully  
3                   asks that the Rock Island Clean Line  
4                   Energy project be denied.

5                   Thank you.

6                   HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
7                   Clayton Lloyd.

8                   CLAYTON LLOYD: My name is  
9                   Clayton Lloyd, C-L-A-Y-T-O-N, L-L-O-Y-D.

10                  I am speaking in support of the Rock  
11                  Island Clean Line project. I am  
12                  representing (inaudible) Energy, the Quad  
13                  Cities. We have our headquarter  
14                  coincidentally in Rock Island, Illinois  
15                  and also have offices in Rockford,  
16                  Sycamore and in Bettendorf, Iowa. We have  
17                  been following the project for about two  
18                  years. We are supportive of its objective  
19                  of bringing ample supply of wind generated  
20                  power from northwest Iowa and related area  
21                  to the more needed demanding areas of the  
22                  Chicago and Illinois areas and further  
23                  east.

24                  We support the concept of

1 diversifying supply and energy resources.

2 We have been impressed with the  
3 innovative and comprehensive approach  
4 shown to us by the Clean Line staff  
5 representatives and we look forward to the  
6 economic benefits to our work and the  
7 economy with jobs and purchases,  
8 construction and ongoing support and  
9 maintenance of the facilities.

10 Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
12 sir.

13 John Capodice.

14 JOHN CAPODICE: Thank you. My  
15 name is John Capodice, J-O-H-N,  
16 C-A-P-O-D-I-C-E.

17 American needs clean energy. Wind  
18 energy is good, clean energy. American  
19 and Illinois need more jobs and Clean Line  
20 will provide jobs. Very little  
21 agriculture impact is going to occur as  
22 Clean Line has signed the Agricultural  
23 Impact Agreement with the Illinois  
24 Department of Agriculture.

1           Additional 99 percent of the easement  
2           is useable space for the farmer. We need  
3           to stop our dependence on foreign oil and  
4           allow Clean Line to move forward with this  
5           project.

6           In our opinion and my experience  
7           Clean Line has shown a willingness and  
8           commitment to fairly and responsibly  
9           complete this work and work with the  
10          landowners that are involved in the  
11          process.

12          Thank you very much.

13                         HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
14          Jon Keeener.

15                         JON KEENER: Jon, J-O-N,  
16          Keener, K-E-E-N-E-R.

17          I am in full support for the  
18          development of this project. This project  
19          will provide clean renewable energy.  
20          Something that we have abundantly present  
21          in the central plains currently with no  
22          transmission assets to bring those  
23          electrons to market.

24          Energy supplies and demand are

1 rapidly changing in our country. Coal is  
2 going away and not coming back. This  
3 project will move us in the midwest  
4 towards energy independence and away from  
5 sources of dirty energy.

6 I fully support the development of  
7 this project and it will create not  
8 hundreds but thousands of jobs throughout  
9 the project area.

10 Thank you very much.

11 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
12 Clarice Faber.

13 CLARICE FABER: Clarice Faber,  
14 C-L-A-R-I-C-E, F-A-B-E-R.

15 I would like to begin tonight by  
16 saying none of us would be here having  
17 this conversation if the government hadn't  
18 put some money out there. And when there  
19 is money usually people are looking for it  
20 to make some money on maybe other people's  
21 back.

22 I am opposed to Rock Island Clean  
23 Line transmission line because private  
24 investors should not be allowed to take

1           our land for their private interest. This  
2           land will be out of production forever.  
3           And when there are more people on this  
4           planet every day, we need that.

5                     200 feet easement, cement, roads,  
6           diagonally across our farm -- and Rock  
7           Island Clean Line told me they will not  
8           devalue the land. That is gall.

9                     Eastern states are developing their  
10          own energy base. They don't need Rock  
11          Island Clean Line. Illinois has already  
12          committed to upgrading their grid.  
13          Illinois does not need Rock Island Clean  
14          Line. Technology is moving so quickly  
15          that overhead lines will become obsolete.

16                    I have no faith, no trust in Rock  
17          Island Clean Line.

18                             HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
19          Megan Faber.

20                             MEGAN FABER: Megan Faber,  
21          M-E-G-A-N, F-A-B-E-R.

22                             Good evening. I am here tonight to  
23          voice my opposition towards the Rock  
24          Island Clean Line project.



1                   Since 1855 my family has been  
2                   building our family farming business so  
3                   that we can do our part in feeding the  
4                   world. After 158 years and many  
5                   generations of farmers giving selflessly  
6                   to feed others we are now trying to  
7                   protect our land from a greedy, private  
8                   company trying to take our land out of  
9                   production for their private gain.  
10                  Looking towards the future it irks me that  
11                  this private company may be robbing my  
12                  nephews and future children of the chance  
13                  to continue on with our family legacy.

14                  Technology and techniques used in  
15                  farming are constantly evolving and  
16                  transmission lines would prohibit us from  
17                  being able to evolve in some aspects.

18                  We know that cropdusters won't be  
19                  able to spray when there is a transmission  
20                  line in the field because it is too  
21                  dangerous. But will our GPS systems work?  
22                  Will compaction limit our future  
23                  productivity?

24                  These are just a few of the many

1 concerns that we have.

2 This is the first time a private  
3 company that is completely independent  
4 from our grid or any comprehensive plan is  
5 trying to gain eminent domain in Illinois.  
6 What kind of precedence will this have for  
7 future private companies wanting to plow  
8 through our land for their private gain?

9 Is it really fair for them to  
10 possibly cripple our farming business for  
11 their private gain?

12 I ask you to please take a look at  
13 the facts and take into consideration  
14 families like mine that have worked for  
15 years to build up their businesses only to  
16 be torn down by a greedy private company.  
17 Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER: Bruce Jones.

19 BRUCE JONES: B-R-U-C-E,  
20 J-O-N-E-S.

21 My wife and I and family live south  
22 of Prophetstown. The Rock Island Clean  
23 Line would run through our farm there.

24 My argument against Rock Island Clean

1 Line goes way beyond back yard concerns.  
2 Here are a few of my objections.

3 Number one, as far as I am concerned  
4 Illinois' number one natural resource is  
5 our land. Not only are we rich in  
6 agricultural land but also rich in  
7 wildlife and simple esthetic beauty of  
8 panoramic midwestern scene.

9 The power lines have to be a part.  
10 They need to be done so in a well planned,  
11 well thought out manner that minimizes  
12 damage done to the land and its  
13 inhabitants.

14 From what I can tell, Rock Island  
15 Clean Line is more interested in taking  
16 the path of least resistance than they are  
17 in protecting the integrity of the land  
18 they want to cross.

19 Number two, not enough is known about  
20 the health risks high power lines can  
21 cause. But there are stories of others  
22 that have gotten sick from living too  
23 close to these lines that is enough to  
24 convince me that this issue cannot be

1 ignored.

2 Tobacco companies fought tooth and  
3 nail for decades trying to prove that  
4 their product didn't cause cancer. We  
5 can't afford to go down that same path  
6 with power lines.

7 Number three, one reason I live in  
8 the country is because of its esthetic  
9 beauty. If power lines have to be put up,  
10 it only makes sense to put them up in the  
11 same corridors where there are already  
12 other power lines. It makes no sense  
13 whatsoever to needlessly increase the  
14 pollution of our scenery when less  
15 detrimental options are available. These  
16 other options should be studied and a  
17 comprehensive statewide plan should be  
18 implemented for all new construction of  
19 power lines, not just Rock Island clean  
20 lines.

21 Let's take our time and do it right  
22 before we lose what is so valuable to us  
23 and will be impossible to regain once it  
24 is lost.

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HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

Mary Auchstetter.

MARY AUCHSTETTER: Thank you.

Mary, M-A-R-Y, Auchstetter,  
A-U-C-H-S-T-E-T-T-E-R.

The majority of landowners Rock Island clean lines plans to slice through their farm are elderly. And I am standing here tonight to represent those people because of the late hour and the longness of this we cannot attend.

In the past year I have spoken to several of these people impacted by RICL. Many are widows and small farm owners. That is owning 80 to 160 acres of land. Through the years they have given up land for pipeline, pipeline, road extension, utility companies and even an airport. They have given up more than their share. And now Rock Island Clean Line wants another part of their land.

Elderly farm owners depend on their farm income. Most of it is their source of income. It is their main investment.

1 Generations have suffered and sacrificed  
2 for this land. They have cared for it as  
3 a mother cares for her child. They know  
4 every spot and where the thistles tend to  
5 grow.

6 At their wake, at the funeral you  
7 will see a picture of the farm. This land  
8 that our RICL wants is a part of them.

9 The senior landowners feel helpless  
10 against Rock Island Clean Line Texas  
11 billionaires. The fast growing technology  
12 is bewildering. Terminology is confusing.

13 Example: FB, which means Facebook,  
14 to them means Farm Bureau.

15 Most do not own a computer or know  
16 how to use the internet.

17 Rock Island Clean Line is aware of  
18 this and uses it to their advantage.

19 By the questions I have been asked it  
20 is evident Rock Island Clean Line has not  
21 explained their project to these people  
22 most involved.

23 The first map is supposed to show --  
24 (inaudible) -- was shopping mall invasion.

1           The second and last was a pass around map.  
2           In the process I became separated from my  
3           sister and passed three different  
4           salespeople. When we said our land was  
5           not for sale they gave us the impression  
6           Rock Island Clean Line already had eminent  
7           domain.

8                     We were told being old would be to  
9           our advantage. We could take one payment  
10          and buy a new car. Rock Island Clean Line  
11          representatives looked dumbfounded when we  
12          said the money would be needed for taxes  
13          and Medicare Part B increased premiums.  
14          There would be no money left for that  
15          unneeded used car.

16                    When asked about crop damages we were  
17          told by the Rock Island crew by the time  
18          they reach our farm they would know what  
19          they were doing. Then they threw me out  
20          of the car.

21                    Rock Island Clean Line is careful to  
22          make verbal and not written statements.

23                    The last salesperson informed me that  
24          Rock Island Clean Line was my friend.

1                   No wonder these people are confused.

2                   While learning about Rock Island  
3 Clean Line I discovered not only will they  
4 destroy part of the farmland, (inaudible)  
5 subsidized by taxpayers' money.

6                   All of this on an expensive and  
7 impractical project that was never  
8 requested and is not needed.

9                   Thank you.

10                   HEARING OFFICER: Susan Sack.

11                   SUSAN SACK: Susan Sack,  
12 S-U-S-A-N, S-A-C-K.

13                   I oppose Rock Island Clean Line's  
14 plan to put a high voltage DC transmission  
15 line across our land. I think that's the  
16 whole crux of it. It's not going across  
17 my personal farmland. It is just wrong.  
18 We should not as Illinois citizens have to  
19 pay for something which is basically  
20 raping our land. This is a private  
21 company wanting eminent domain for private  
22 gain. If we allow them this opportunity  
23 we open the door to many, many future  
24 problems with eminent domain.



1                   Rock Island Clean Line has not been  
2                   studied with an environment impact.

3                   There are many companies that are --  
4                   or many states that are opposing Clean  
5                   Line Corporation. The corporation itself  
6                   has some major issues that your ICC staff  
7                   in their own testimony pointed out.  
8                   Problems with their financial plan,  
9                   problems with their study. And I would  
10                  like for you as representatives of  
11                  Illinois citizens to look at what's in the  
12                  best interest of Illinois citizens and not  
13                  private investors.

14                  HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
15                  Laura Te Grotenhuis.

16                  LAURA TE GROTENHUIS: Laura Te  
17                  Grotenhuis, L-A-U-R-A, T-E, space,  
18                  G-R-O-T-E-N-H-U-I-S.

19                  I am a proud citizen of the United  
20                  States strongly supporting conservation.  
21                  I come from Marshall, of course, Illinois,  
22                  down in Clark County. I attended a county  
23                  board meeting there where our  
24                  superintendent when trying to be wooed by

1 Grain Belt was smart enough to realize  
2 that when given money by Grain Belt it  
3 will cut Marshall's state funding. If  
4 they are taking 200,000, it will cut it by  
5 the same amount. Will it ever be renewed?  
6 He posed the question. Who knows. It is  
7 the State of Illinois.

8 As a member of Stop The Power Line  
9 Coalition while fighting with the Illinois  
10 River's project, the Ameren project  
11 stretching across the state, farm land was  
12 the worst hit landowner. Four miles of my  
13 property. Two miles of my own.

14 But in doing research I found where  
15 Ameren said in several articles they  
16 closed two coal plants, laid off 47  
17 employees because of the lack of  
18 electrical demand. Black and white, St.  
19 Louis Dispatch. I didn't make that up.  
20 Right there.

21 The converter station that would be  
22 coming, the same thing is promised to  
23 Clark County about a converter station.  
24 That equipment is not made or produced in

1 the United States. European market.  
2 European manpower will assemble the same.  
3 No local union. Europe. Could be the  
4 European Union, but not our local people.

5 When we say everyone needs -- we are  
6 for clean energy. In my fight with the  
7 Illinois River's project I talked to Rural  
8 Affairs Alliance Nebraska and I asked a  
9 young man, I said, I do my part to  
10 recycle, I do my part to do this, that and  
11 the other, and I said do you buy ethanol?  
12 He paused. He said no. Just said thank  
13 you for your honesty.

14 I don't know how anybody wanting  
15 clean energy that is under federal  
16 subsidy, the wind, and doesn't buy  
17 ethanol. That's an oxymoron. And oxy and  
18 moron are two of the state's words.

19 My one thing -- I farm. Like I said,  
20 every farmland owned in Clark County,  
21 Illinois -- (inaudible) -- and in my fight  
22 with Stop The Power Line Coalition -- I  
23 have larger photos -- but I wanted to  
24 protect my -- just to move it south onto a

1 different farm. But I was told there is  
2 no difference. And anybody that farms  
3 ground with 18-inch tiling underneath and  
4 extends a terracing system understands  
5 there is a difference. It would have  
6 taken out roadways.

7 But the one thing I can tell you that  
8 as a farmer, an individual, a land  
9 conservator and lover of the land and my  
10 livestock, these power lines forever will  
11 change the lives of everyone.

12 That 140 to 200 feet they are talking  
13 about, let it be next to their house. Let  
14 us tell them that they can no longer raise  
15 that cattle. Talk to people out east.  
16 Oh, they have horses. I have a World  
17 Champion stallion. I would never have him  
18 back home. Of course, I would have left  
19 home. But you can't do that under that  
20 type -- that 345 GP. You cannot have your  
21 livestock be submitted to that type of  
22 treatment. The fencing -- they don't  
23 care. They don't care if our livestock --  
24 but the land that they are taking is

1 people's past. It is their inheritance.  
2 It is people's future. It is their  
3 legacy.

4 And at what cost do we want these  
5 power lines to go through? There was no  
6 price I was willing to take. No price.

7 But it was my life. It put me in a  
8 fight only second to the -- (inaudible) --  
9 and with that I beg and implore the ICC to  
10 stop it all. It is a madness.

11 Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
13 Scott Thorsen.

14 SCOTT THORSEN: Scott Thorsen,  
15 S-C-O-T-T, T-H-O-R-S-E-N. Rock Island  
16 Clean Line's message has been nothing but  
17 inconsistent from the start. This is a  
18 startup venture capital company that  
19 currently makes nothing. Creates no  
20 economic value added. And I fear this  
21 company's true intentions should this  
22 power line be built.

23 I continue to ask myself if Clean  
24 Line acts this way now, how will Clean

1 Line conduct its business if they actually  
2 have a business to run with RICL.

3 First Clean Line held informational  
4 meetings last summer. HDR Engineering  
5 employees represented themselves as Clean  
6 Line Energy. At no time did these HDR  
7 employees state they were an outside  
8 contractor and working for Clean Line.  
9 Not once did I hear an actual Clean Line  
10 employee speak about the project at this  
11 informational meeting.

12 Then I learned Clean Line had already  
13 applied for public utility status under  
14 the old docket number.

15 We weren't told this information at  
16 all in the meeting.

17 Clean Line continued to sell the  
18 public on the project as a power line for  
19 the wind.

20 FERC, basically, federal government,  
21 told Clean Line from the beginning the  
22 company cannot discriminate between forms  
23 of energy, whether it is nuclear, coal,  
24 natural gas, wind, all could be used on

1           this power line.

2                   Clean Line representatives from  
3           Kansas for the Green Belt Express, Clean  
4           Line said the project could add as much as  
5           50 percent wind energy for that power  
6           line.

7                   Clean Line New Mexico project only  
8           needs 30 percent renewable energy to be  
9           called clean.

10                   To claim RICL electricity is for the  
11           clean wind energy is nothing more than  
12           false advertising.

13                   30 percent is an incredibly low  
14           threshold.

15                   And FERC told Clean Line they have to  
16           be open to everyone.

17                   Clean Line also is marketing  
18           themselves as a merchant transmission line  
19           where the rate payors will not directly  
20           pay for the power line. A year ago they  
21           were making this claim. Last fall and  
22           last winter they claimed to be following  
23           the merchant transmission line motto.  
24           Hans Detweiler has gone around Iowa and

1 Illinois proclaiming that all residents of  
2 northwestern Iowa won't see a rate  
3 increase in their electric bills to pay  
4 for this project.

5 Wasn't hard to realize Clean Line was  
6 being deceptive of this message.

7 All you had to do a year ago was do a  
8 Google search of Rock Island Clean Line  
9 cost allocation and realize Clean Line is  
10 claiming to be following merchant  
11 transmission motto but they are also  
12 attempting to get the customers to pay for  
13 it.

14 This was after Clean Line told FERC  
15 they would not seek cost allocation.

16 Clean Line's true intent was to have  
17 rate payors pay for this privately owned  
18 venture speculation capital project.

19 Fortunately PJM denied Clean Line's  
20 request. FERC denied Clean Line again.  
21 Clean Line has yet to acknowledge the cost  
22 allocation and make us pay for their  
23 project.

24 Clean Line's argument PGM, they are



1 not relevant when PGM's long-term plan --  
2 because they are a merchant transmission  
3 line. But Clean Line also asked PGM to  
4 keep the project transparent.

5 It is a bit confusing. That's  
6 understandable. One time ask for cost  
7 allocation. When they are in the public  
8 they are going to say it is a merchant  
9 transmission line.

10 After seeing how Clean Line  
11 representatives represent themselves as  
12 less than an honorable manner I suspect  
13 this power line will generate  
14 opportunities for energy trading,  
15 speculation between the MISO and PGM  
16 market and price manipulation will be  
17 followed.

18 In my opinion the chances of there  
19 actually being a savings for Illinois rate  
20 payors is nil.

21 It is not that I oppose this power  
22 line on my property. It is not even going  
23 on my property. I oppose Clean Line  
24 Energy for doing business in Illinois.

1 This is not how business should be  
2 operated in our state.

3 With all of the inconsistencies and  
4 Clean Line's claims I have got to borrow a  
5 phrase from Hillary Clinton to describe  
6 this company. I have to suspend my  
7 ability of disbelief to imagine this power  
8 line has any benefit to Illinois.

9 We hold Cracker Jacks and Fruit Loops  
10 to a higher standard of truth in marketing  
11 than what Clean Line energy has displayed  
12 in the last year and a half.

13 How many power lines do we need in  
14 Illinois? We have proposed RICL. Ameren  
15 has their Three Rivers. Clean Line has  
16 Green Belt Express going through central  
17 Illinois. Now KTR is a -- (inaudible) --  
18 allocation on the same area as RICL to  
19 come through the state. And they want to  
20 bring energy from Wisconsin down to  
21 Illinois. All of this time we already  
22 have a surplus of energy in Illinois. We  
23 export energy to the eastern markets. We  
24 don't need this energy. We don't need

1 wind power from the other side of Iowa  
2 shoved down our throats.

3 Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
5 Keryn Newman.

6 KERYN NEWMAN: Keryn Newman,  
7 K-E-R-Y-N, N-E-W-M-A-N.

8 I came here tonight from  
9 Shepherdstown, West Virginia because I  
10 have grave concerns about this project and  
11 this company.

12 The recently filed testimony of Clean  
13 Line Energy's Mark Lawlor at the Kansas  
14 Corporation Commission regarding the  
15 sister Green Belt Express project makes  
16 two stunning admissions.

17 Clean Line Energy is making plans to  
18 usurp state -- (inaudible) -- to site its  
19 project. When the staff of the KCC  
20 suggested Clean Line Energy permit be  
21 conditioned on receiving approval from  
22 three other states, including Illinois,  
23 Lawlor responded as follows: First there  
24 is possibility that approval from all

1 three states will not be necessary,  
2 although receiving siting approvals from  
3 those states is the most likely scenario  
4 for the project to move forward to  
5 construction and operation, transmission  
6 line siting regulations or policy to  
7 evolve with the state or federal level or  
8 through multistate siting cooperation, or  
9 Grain Belt Express could use other  
10 transmission siting authority currently in  
11 place for other states through which the  
12 transmission line crosses. We do not want  
13 to rule out the possibility that the  
14 construction of the line in some areas  
15 might be allowed based on a law,  
16 regulation or approval that is distinct  
17 from what is currently proposed by Grain  
18 Belt Express or available today.

19 Secondly, the Kansas Corporation  
20 Commission staff's wording of cost  
21 responsibility provisions was also  
22 criticized by Mr. Lawlor. With what the  
23 staff proposed, and I will quote here, one  
24 recommendation by Mr. Debond is that the

1 permit issued to Grain Belt Express be  
2 conditioned on the project being, quote,  
3 the permitted transmission line only and  
4 not subject to funding under the SPP open  
5 access transmission tariff.

6 Here is what Mr. Lawlor wanted it to  
7 say. The cost of the project and any AC  
8 collector (inaudible) will not be  
9 recovered through the SPP cost allocation  
10 process or in rate payors.

11 What is missing the merchant  
12 transmission line. This indicates that  
13 Clean Line Energy has no intention of  
14 remaining a privately funded enterprise.  
15 And in fact, the company has recently  
16 prequalified as a designated entity  
17 eligible to own and build transmission  
18 projects in PJM in connection that will be  
19 cost allocated to all electric rate  
20 payors, including Illinois consumers.

21 I am aware that Illinois has  
22 previously had issues with responsibility  
23 for the cost of new transmission projects  
24 intended to benefit east coast states.

1 Approval of RICL will continue this  
2 financial misery for many years to come,  
3 if not with RICL, then when subsequent  
4 Clean Line Energy projects intended to  
5 pick up where RICL now ends and plow on  
6 through to the coastal load centers.

7 I can't help wondering if Clean Line  
8 Energy ever truly intended to adopt a  
9 merchant business motto or was the plan to  
10 turn the normal sequence of transmission  
11 permitting on its head in order to gain an  
12 advantage over other projects by having  
13 state permits already in hand during a  
14 future PJM project bidding. (Inaudible)  
15 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I  
16 do not want or need what Clean Line is  
17 selling. I would rather spend my  
18 renewable energy dollars in my own  
19 community. Eastern states have the idea  
20 of their state goals being met by out of  
21 state or regional -- much to their own  
22 economic detriment.

23 Illinois has realized that being  
24 stuck to Clean Line Energy project in --

1 (inaudible) -- east coast states are  
2 moving rapidly to meet their own renewal  
3 goals with wind and other local generation  
4 sources rather than support the economies  
5 of other states with imported renewables.

6 Like I said, I am from West Virginia  
7 where exploitation of our natural  
8 resources for use by other states is  
9 business as usual. More than 100 years  
10 ago out of state coal barons showed up in  
11 our community with promises of incredible  
12 riches and economic prosperity. They  
13 stole our land and devastated our  
14 environment, leaving a poor wasteland  
15 behind. All of the riches ended up in the  
16 pockets of those out of state snake oil  
17 salesmen.

18 Wind energy is a natural resource.  
19 We as a society know that those who fail  
20 to learn from history are doomed to repeat  
21 it.

22 Thank you.

23 HEARING OFFICER: Theresa  
24 Hoover. Theresa?

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John Cantlin.

JOHN CANTLIN: Thank you.

John, J-O-H-N, Cantlin, C-A-N-T-L-I-N.

I am here to tell the Commerce Commission that I am a landowner. Three of my sons are landowners where this project goes through. And I strongly urge the Illinois Commerce Commission to turn down the request to become a regulated utility that has been filed by Rock Island Clean Line.

Now, the reason that we need to focus in on, what is their issue here with the Commerce Commission?

Fortunately I have been able to intervene in this case and I've had the opportunity to review the petition, the expert testimony and the exhibits that Rock Island Clean Line have sent here. And what they need to do is to convince the Illinois Commerce Commission that there is a public need, a public necessity for us to have another regulated utility in the State of Illinois. And I suggest



1 to you that when the Commerce Commission  
2 and Administrative Law Judge reviews that  
3 they have not met their burden. They have  
4 not presented by petition, expert  
5 testimony or exhibits that there is a  
6 public need in Illinois for another  
7 regulated utility.

8 For them to do that -- let's not make  
9 any mistake about it. You know, this is a  
10 new company and they haven't built these  
11 windmills where this energy is coming  
12 from. They haven't got the customers of  
13 where it is going. I strongly urge the  
14 Commerce Commission to listen to the  
15 comments made by Phil Nelson, Illinois  
16 Farm Bureau President, who represents I  
17 think probably about 80,000 Farm Bureau  
18 members in the State of Illinois. This  
19 project is being proposed by a Delaware  
20 Corporation that is based out of Houston,  
21 Texas. This is nothing other than about  
22 making money for Rock Island Clean Line.

23 Certainly if we have to think about  
24 what are the needs here for the public,

1           they haven't shown them in this case.

2                     Our natural resource is soil, and  
3           that is one of the things that they are  
4           not making any more of.

5                     They have asked for a permanent  
6           easement. That means in perpetuity. I  
7           don't know how long forever is but I think  
8           it is a long time. And it is wrong for  
9           them to come into Illinois and take out of  
10          production in perpetuity the best farmland  
11          in the world and go through and cram this  
12          down the landowner's throat.

13                    We are all in favor of employment.  
14          We are all in favor of the environment.  
15          We do need to do something about the  
16          carbon footprint, but this is not the  
17          project that does it.

18                    I strongly urge that the Commerce  
19          Commission turn this down because they  
20          have not proven that there is a public  
21          necessity for this project on a new  
22          startup company and they should not be  
23          granted eminent domain.

24                    Thank you.

1 HEARING OFFICER: Ron --

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Excuse me.

3 You called Theresa Hoover who is a

4 colleague of mine right before this

5 gentleman spoke. Is there an opportunity

6 for me to speak?

7 HEARING OFFICER: Say that

8 again.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You called

10 Theresa Hoover.

11 HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name was

13 supposed to be on the card instead of

14 Theresa's, so when you called her I

15 didn't step up because I didn't know it

16 was --

17 HEARING OFFICER: I have got to

18 go by what I started with.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So would it

20 be okay if Theresa came up and spoke?

21 HEARING OFFICER: Pardon me?

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Are you

23 saying Theresa would need to come up?

24 HEARING OFFICER: Correct.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay.

2 HEARING OFFICER: Ron Lohman.

3 RON LOHMAN: Ron Lohman,  
4 L-O-H-M-A-N, farmer, Rock Island County,  
5 Illinois.

6 I just had one major question. We  
7 have extra energy now. And a lot of  
8 people may not know it, but there are 11  
9 governors in 11 states out east who signed  
10 petitions saying they do not want Rock  
11 Island Clean Line to come out there.  
12 That's 11 states.

13 Now, why would we keep pushing the  
14 agreement out there when 11 states don't  
15 even want it? That's it. Why?

16 HEARING OFFICER: Where did  
17 that gentleman go that asked me the  
18 question?

19 Is Theresa here?

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She is.

21 HEARING OFFICER: Where is she?

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Here.

23 HEARING OFFICER: Theresa,  
24 stand up, please.

1                   Was it supposed to be his name on  
2                   there instead of yours?

3                   THERESA HOOVER:   Yes, sir, it  
4                   was.

5                   HEARING OFFICER:   Okay.

6                   KERYN NEWMAN:   Some other lady  
7                   signed that name because they were right  
8                   in front of us.   Some lady that already  
9                   spoke signed Theresa's name up.   I  
10                  watched her do it.

11                  Theresa and him, neither one of them  
12                  signed their name.

13                  HEARING OFFICER:   Is that true?

14                  AUDIENCE MEMBER:   I did not  
15                  sign my name.   Theresa was supposed to  
16                  sign my name.

17                  HEARING OFFICER:   Theresa, did  
18                  you sign your name?

19                  THERESA HOOVER:   No, sir,  
20                  actually someone who got here before us.  
21                  We made a long trip from Atlanta and  
22                  there was a gentleman that signed us up.

23                  HEARING OFFICER:   No, no.

24                  Mary Mauch.

1 MARY MAUCH: Mary Mauch,  
2 M-A-U-C-H. And I think Dad said  
3 everything I wanted to say. So I would  
4 like to enter into the record the number  
5 of opposition that is here tonight. And  
6 based on my professional experience as a  
7 quorum conductor, I would estimate the  
8 applause is about four to five or one to  
9 five.

10 I asked and our volunteers out front  
11 estimated about 400 people here tonight in  
12 opposition to the Clean Line.

13 Will you please give me a show of  
14 hands for the number of people who are on  
15 the proposed study route that did not get  
16 any information about the open houses from  
17 Rock Island Clean Line or it was such a  
18 piece of junk mail that you probably just  
19 threw it away and you didn't get notice?

20 So raise your hand, please, if you  
21 didn't know about the open houses.

22 Thank you. Will you turn around and  
23 count maybe how many?

24 HEARING OFFICER: We don't have

1 time for that.

2 MARY MAUCH: I am sure Dad took  
3 my speech.

4 If you found out about this Rock  
5 Island Clean Line project through somebody  
6 else other than Rock Island Clean Line and  
7 their mailers, please raise your hand.

8 Even more than before.

9 Last question, did you feel like you  
10 were listened to in the open houses?

11 Yes or no? I don't know how to put  
12 that into the record but there are a lot  
13 of people who answered no.

14 Thank you.

15 HEARING OFFICER: Cheryl  
16 Matteson.

17 CHERYL MATTESON: Cheryl  
18 Matteson C-H-E-R-Y-L, M-A-T-T-E-S-O-N.

19 I respectfully urge the Illinois  
20 Commerce Commission to deny Clean Line  
21 Energy partners a certificate of public  
22 convenience and necessity.

23 My husband and I own and farm land  
24 adjacent to the proposed Rock Island Clean

1 Line 600 kilovolt high voltage direct  
2 current transmission line.

3 We are strongly opposed to the  
4 construction of a transmission line that  
5 has questionable financing, no proven need  
6 and no benefit to the landowners and  
7 farmers who will be negatively impacted.

8 The proposed route would take some of  
9 the most productive farmland in the  
10 country out of production in perpetuity.  
11 Crop yields on acres affected by the  
12 construction will also be decreased.

13 We know firsthand from Enrich  
14 Pipeline construction on our farm five  
15 years ago that the productivity of the  
16 affected land is decreased even after  
17 broken tile is repaired and soil  
18 compaction reduction strategies are  
19 attempted.

20 The transmission lines towers and  
21 wires would also greatly inhibit modern  
22 farm practices. Aerial spraying of  
23 insecticides and fungicides would no  
24 longer be a viable option. Aerial



1           spraying is essential some years to save a  
2           crop.

3                     In the summer of 2012 Illinois faced  
4           serious drought conditions. The front  
5           page article of a July 23rd, 2012 edition  
6           of Farm Week was titled Quinn To Farmers:  
7           State Will Be There In Hour Of Need.

8                     Although the article was specifically  
9           addressing the drought, it points out the  
10          importance of agriculture to the economy  
11          of Illinois. I would like to quote the  
12          first two paragraphs of this article:  
13          Standing before a brittle cornfield,  
14          Governor Pat Quinn last week assured  
15          Illinois farmers that the state government  
16          would not forget them during this  
17          'national disaster of epic proportion.'  
18          We have got to come together and help our  
19          neighbors the Governor said. This is  
20          something for the whole state. This is  
21          the heart and soul of Illinois' economy.  
22          Agriculture, the heart and soul of  
23          Illinois' economy.

24                     As landowners and farmers we see it

1 as our duty to be stewards of the land and  
2 to protect it for future generations. We  
3 know that Illinois is in dire financial  
4 condition and that any project infusing  
5 temporary money and a few temporary jobs  
6 into the state's economy is tempting to  
7 support. However, we urge you to consider  
8 the long-term consequences of giving a  
9 private out of state company the right of  
10 eminent domain for a project that offers  
11 no long-term benefit for the residents of  
12 Illinois.

13 Please do not allow Illinois'  
14 precious nonrenewable natural resource of  
15 fertile farmland to be taken by eminent  
16 domain and negatively impacted in  
17 perpetuity.

18 Protect the heart and soul of  
19 Illinois' economy.

20 Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER: Greg  
22 Matteson.

23 GREG MATTESON: Greg Matteson,  
24 G-R-E-G, M-A-T-T-E-S-O-N.

1 I respectfully urge the Illinois  
2 Commerce Commission to deny Clean Line  
3 Energy Partners a certificate of  
4 convenience and necessity.

5 My wife and I own and farm land  
6 adjacent to the proposed Rock Island Clean  
7 Line transmission line and we adamantly  
8 oppose it.

9 Of course we are opposed to them  
10 taking prime Illinois farmland for the  
11 financial benefit of an out of state  
12 company. But even more alarming is the  
13 lack of health and safety information on  
14 high voltage direct current.

15 We are extremely concerned about the  
16 effects of static and magnetic fields. We  
17 have asked to see specific research  
18 regarding the safety of a person with a  
19 pacemaker defibrillator operating modern  
20 farm equipment beneath high voltage direct  
21 current transmission lines but Clean Line  
22 has not addressed this issue.

23 We have found effect -- (inaudible)  
24 in a paper on high volume signal direct

1 current transmission lines and electronic  
2 devices dated November 5th, 2012. That  
3 does not appear on Clean Line's general  
4 website.

5 Clean Line retained the services of a  
6 company called Exponent to assess the  
7 potential interference by high voltage  
8 direct current transmission lines in the  
9 performance of electronic devices such as  
10 cell phones, cochlear implants, shunts,  
11 pacemakers and defibrillators. As stated,  
12 the field -- (inaudible) -- pacemaker  
13 defibrillator in this report do not  
14 coincide with the field intensity safety  
15 limits listed by Medtronic, a leading  
16 manufacturer of pacemakers and implantable  
17 cardio converter defibrillators. The  
18 report also does not include many specific  
19 safety testing regarding operating farm  
20 equipment beneath the lines and concludes,  
21 and I quote, "If a patient does have  
22 concern about the compatibility of their  
23 device from any source they should consult  
24 their physician."

1                   This is an avoidance of addressing  
2                   the specific safety concerns.

3                   I ask you to weigh the legitimate  
4                   unaddressed health and safety concerns of  
5                   the Illinois residents directly affected  
6                   by this unnecessary proposed project and  
7                   deny Clean Line Energy partners a  
8                   certificate of public convenience and  
9                   necessity.

10                  Thank you.

11                                 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
12                   We are going to have to move this along a  
13                   little faster, folks. So if you could  
14                   cut down some of your -- you know, so we  
15                   can get everybody that wants to speak to  
16                   speak.

17                                 Janet Miller.

18   JANET MILLER: Janet,  
19                   J-A-N-E-T, Miller, M-I-L-L-E-R. I have  
20                   written comments to submit. I just would  
21                   like to go on record as opposing RICL.

22   HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
23                   Howard Miller.

24   HOWARD MILLER: I'll make this

1 short and sweet.

2 I am against it. Howard Miller.

3 HEARING OFFICER: Tom Wolf.

4 TOM WOLF: Good evening. Tom  
5 Wolf, T-O-M, W-O-L-F, like the animal.

6 I am with the Illinois Chamber of  
7 Commerce.

8 The underlying discussion being held  
9 today has been going on for decades. We  
10 have heard many times about the lack of  
11 enthusiasm for infrastructure projects  
12 that cross private lands.

13 I could quote lines from Star Trek  
14 about how they did it, but for many of you  
15 that's a load of you know what for people  
16 along many types of infrastructure,  
17 especially if you are a landowner.

18 This Chamber, our Chamber,  
19 understands that for rural landowners  
20 eminent domain is a swear word. We know  
21 rural landowners bear the one brunt of  
22 providing space for transmission lines  
23 that bring energy to the marketplace. We  
24 also know that our economy and quality of

1           life doesn't exist unless energy  
2           infrastructure has a chance to get built.  
3           We also know if we don't get electricity  
4           or transportation of it by it magically  
5           appearing through the air. It has to be  
6           transported.

7                     If the Commission deems this project  
8           meets or exceeds the standards, we implore  
9           the local landowners and community leaders  
10          to work with Clean Line to ensure the  
11          project is completed with appropriate  
12          production with an eye for having a  
13          productive long-term relationship.

14                    Nothing is more (inaudible) to a  
15          healthy economy than the availability of  
16          reliable energy that is needed in every  
17          home and business. Companies like Clean  
18          Line are forced to be -- to prove that  
19          their energy projects serve a public  
20          needed benefit. But if that standard is  
21          met the company must have the ability to  
22          ensure a project not be stopped.

23                    If this issue does not meet the  
24          need -- there is energy from all then

1 generation -- (inaudible -- pipelines  
2 deliver oil and natural gas that everyone  
3 in this room uses.

4 The people of Illinois have to be  
5 prepared for the reality that enough  
6 energy or as the need for energy grows, we  
7 need to build more energy in this country.  
8 Illinois is good at this and they have  
9 shown they are good at making a network.

10 I close by stating this state is  
11 crisscrossed by thousands of miles of  
12 underground pipelines, above ground  
13 transmission lines and roads. Each one  
14 presents a challenge to the landowner. We  
15 have shown an infrastructure can coexist  
16 with the successful use of land.

17 I also would like to end by saying it  
18 is better to talk than to not talk to  
19 Clean Line Energy folks. I work in  
20 Springfield on a regular basis. I approve  
21 legislation down there. I talk with  
22 people who I disagree all of the time.  
23 Sometimes we find things that we actually  
24 thought we disagreed on but we are



1           actually okay with and found compromise.  
2           Other times we felt we were on different  
3           sides of the issue. On each we were  
4           focused on what the challenges were. So  
5           talking is a sign of strength, not a sign  
6           of weakness.

7           I appreciate everybody in the room  
8           who -- so we can live, work and play --  
9           thank you so much.

10                       HEARING OFFICER: Amy Harvey.

11                       AMY HARVEY: My name is Amy  
12           Harvey. A-M-Y, H-A-R-V-E-Y. This is my  
13           testimony as to why Rock Island Clean  
14           Line should be denied public utility  
15           status in Illinois.

16           In 1787, on December 20, Thomas  
17           Jefferson said these words to James  
18           Madison. They were President of the  
19           United States at one time, you have to  
20           remember.

21           I think our government will remain  
22           virtuous for many centuries as long as  
23           they are chiefly agriculture.

24           These are wise words spoken by wise

1 men and are as true today as they were 220  
2 years ago.

3 Should Clean Line Energy partner be  
4 allowed to needlessly tear up precious  
5 farmland in order to place huge HVC towers  
6 covering miles of land, decreasing home  
7 and land values, restricting agriculture  
8 instability and quality of life? Common  
9 sense would tell us no.

10 I am a resident on one of those  
11 proposed Clean Line HVC power line  
12 projects called Grain Belt Express. The  
13 mammoth 700-mile plus line connecting  
14 Kansas through Missouri, Illinois and into  
15 Indiana.

16 Attached is our testimony --  
17 (inaudible) -- the case proposed in this  
18 line that is proposed to be 300 feet from  
19 my front door. This testimony shares my  
20 personal experience with Clean Line and  
21 how my husband and I were disrespectfully  
22 treated at our own house in July of this  
23 year.

24 I was assaulted by a Green Belt hired

1 local cop who forcefully -- attempting to  
2 share documents about the health and  
3 safety concerns of tower lines and I was  
4 told that I had no free speech rights at  
5 that meeting.

6 What kind of business treats  
7 associates in this manner?

8 Not a reputable one that I know of.

9 Is this a company that anyone should  
10 want to do business with?

11 The demand for power is lessening as  
12 people are applying energy conservation  
13 methods that actually work.

14 They are not constricted by the  
15 miles -- (inaudible) -- a power line that  
16 Clean Line and Clean Energy propose.

17 Check out this article from Business  
18 Week, attached. And I have it here. I  
19 will submit it.

20 The article is a shocker. Power  
21 demand in U.S. homes is falling.

22 This is true. My husband and I built  
23 an energy efficient home in Missouri. The  
24 projects available to conservative people

1 are marvelous -- (inaudible) -- energy  
2 needs could be lessened and hundreds of  
3 dollars could be saved by energy  
4 conservation rather than promoting energy  
5 consumption as Rock Island Clean Line and  
6 all of the Rock Island projects are set to  
7 do.

8 Because of our truly energy  
9 conservation mitigation agreement that my  
10 husband and I have made, we have reduced  
11 our carbon footprint. Our total energy  
12 bill for July 2013 was \$77. For  
13 August 2013, it was \$74. We have -- this  
14 is far more effective environmentally and  
15 economically.

16 Industrial wind is not economical, as  
17 the costs far outweigh the return.

18 See attached fact economic sheet  
19 which I have here.

20 And we also study the effect of the  
21 proposed wind farm with value of rural  
22 property. You will be amazed.

23 The true meaning of -- (inaudible) --  
24 develop these transition lines is for

1 money. It is nothing to do with saving  
2 the environment or the economy. It is  
3 wasteful and encroaches on personal  
4 property. The farmers and landowners --  
5 this is something that we should not  
6 support in our continued suppressed  
7 economy.

8 See attached article,  
9 Stopillinoiswind.org. There is ten  
10 reasons which develop the mitigation  
11 agreements wind developers are interested  
12 in only providing public service. Our  
13 energy bills are -- (inaudible). In the  
14 attached Mark Lawlor, renewable energy --  
15 a Kansas Corporation -- I am actually --  
16 she submitted that. I have it here too.

17 On page 4, bottom of the page you  
18 will see where there is already changes  
19 made and change in the wording from  
20 merchant project to cost allocating.

21 Our economy cannot afford higher  
22 enterprises than it already has,  
23 especially for a power line that is not  
24 wanted and not needed by anyone but Clean

1 Line Energy partners and their wallets.

2 Another concern of this is the bottom  
3 of page 1 to top of 3, that does not need  
4 to abide by Missouri, Illinois and state  
5 laws to get these lines shoved down our  
6 throats.

7 This governing body, the ICC, is the  
8 body that can stop this terrible  
9 encroachment on state's rights and private  
10 property rights. That the word eminent  
11 domain from Clean Line, that they are not  
12 shy about tossing around, to the intended  
13 landowner.

14 I am also submitting the testimony,  
15 that document KCC -- (Inaudible) -- the  
16 petition on behalf of the board of  
17 Marshall County Commissioners. Both of  
18 these documents site major problems with  
19 Clean Line Energy and projects in --  
20 impact on communities, farm and cropland,  
21 local energy providers, local clean -- the  
22 local economy, et cetera.

23 I beg of you, please do not open this  
24 Clean Line Pandora's box of clean energy

1           that -- (inaudible) -- our farmland,  
2           private property, lives, states rights,  
3           wildlife and hard earned money.

4           I would also like to share one more  
5           thing. People have been talking about the  
6           job opportunity that this Clean Line is  
7           supposed to represent. From this document  
8           from stopwind.org, number seven, the local  
9           jobs -- it says here this is a cruel  
10          untruth, especially in an economically  
11          depressed area. Very few permanent jobs  
12          will likely be created. Perhaps a couple  
13          throw-away employees. According to the  
14          report from the National Renewable Energy  
15          Lab on replant jobs, the national average  
16          is one maintenance employee for every 12  
17          to 15 permits. (Inaudible) now employ  
18          only two maintenance employees. 40 miles  
19          south the mountain was -- (inaudible) --  
20          with over 45 employees, employs three to  
21          four workers. 42 intended at western area  
22          wind tower and wind energy, both LLC  
23          developers have pledged -- (Inaudible) --  
24          employee a little more than 18,000

1           annually, less than the living wage for  
2           family of four for this country, in a  
3           facility that is projected to be in the  
4           neighborhood of 350 million. During  
5           construction a few security guards and  
6           some local crews will be hired for a few  
7           months, although local construction  
8           typically is completed by foreign labor as  
9           the turbines -- are inferred --  
10          (Inaudible) -- the warranty serviced by  
11          the manufacturer.

12                 Recent study in from Iowa Department  
13          of National Resources on the --  
14          (Inaudible) -- of the 212 construction  
15          jobs, only 20 were local. And all of this  
16          disappeared in six months.

17                 I would like to add one more thing.  
18          I am sorry for my length but rebuttal  
19          testimony that --

20                         HEARING OFFICER: Ma'am, your  
21          three minutes are up.

22                         AMY HARVEY: Thank you.

23                         HEARING OFFICER: I am going to  
24          have to start being mean. Three minutes



1 is three minutes.

2 Brent Riewerts.

3 BRENT RIEWERTS: Brent,  
4 B-R-E-N-T, R-I-E-W-E-R-T-S.

5 I would like to speak tonight  
6 opposing the Clean Line project.

7 I think everybody here knows that  
8 Clean Line is private. And versus a  
9 public utility, that has some pretty  
10 negative undertones, if you will.

11 And Clean Line has kind of come out  
12 in some documents I have seen stating  
13 that, well, there is other utilities such  
14 as Mid America owned by Warren Buffett,  
15 and that is a private company. So what  
16 makes them so different?

17 And the big difference is proposing a  
18 merchant line, meaning you probably don't  
19 want to pay for it out of their own  
20 pocket.

21 I think if they want to be viewed the  
22 same as Mid America they should be held to  
23 the same standards, both financially and  
24 to have to prove the necessity of the

1 project the same way utilities such as Mid  
2 America would have to.

3 I am on the Rock Island County Farm  
4 Bureau Board where the Board voted  
5 unanimately to oppose the project and was  
6 asked to speak to our Rock Island County  
7 Board.

8 In talking with some of the people  
9 there I had an hour long conversation with  
10 Representative Pat Moran who questioned  
11 me, asked whether we had a (inaudible) to  
12 Clean Line. I told him we had IOA, Farm  
13 Bureau and others involved in the  
14 intervening.

15 He almost chuckled and said, "Well, I  
16 have been told Clean Line's request to do  
17 the project is a done deal."

18 My question is, who told a public  
19 official that this is a done deal?

20 Was it Clean Line to make it seem  
21 like a done deal? Someone in a  
22 governmental office who knows more than  
23 anybody in this room? I don't know. I  
24 don't want to speculate. That's just what

1 he said.

2 I hope that the ICC takes into  
3 account all of the oppositions, concerns,  
4 questions, seriously and that they are not  
5 just a rubber stamp for Clean Line.

6 In closing, Clean Line, their own  
7 filings to ICC stated, "Build it and they  
8 will come" in regards to electric  
9 production and to its customer base.

10 That kind of a business motto is not  
11 good enough to trump the private property  
12 rights of those people in this room just  
13 for a spec project.

14 Thank you.

15 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

16 Wayne Rutherford.

17 WILLY RUTHERFORD: I go by  
18 Willy, W-I-L-L-Y, R-U-T-H-E-R-F-O-R-D.

19 I will limit my conversation to an  
20 analogy.

21 I once had an opportunity to develop  
22 a business arrangement with a man that I  
23 knew socially. And I knew him socially in  
24 the context where we had an opportunity to

1           have a lot of discussions.  Every day that  
2           I spent with him, every evening I spent  
3           with him, because we lived close to each  
4           other and we did a lot of socializing  
5           together, the stories he told were  
6           different.  They weren't different  
7           circumstances, they were different in  
8           their composition and the results were  
9           different.  And that went on long enough  
10          that I decided that I did not want to do  
11          business with a man that was so  
12          inconsistent because it turned out that he  
13          was in fact a pathological liar.  The  
14          analogy that I am using is that every  
15          conversation I've had with members of the  
16          RICL sales staff told me a different  
17          story.  And I believe that it is  
18          inappropriate for the Commerce Commission  
19          to approve a business that has so little  
20          integrity that they can even tell a  
21          consistent story day after day from  
22          different mouths at different times.  And  
23          so I believe that on the basis of the  
24          integrity factor that the Commerce

1 Commission should refuse to approve the  
2 application that RICL is in the process of  
3 pursuing.

4 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
5 Randy Rosengren.

6 RANDY ROSENGREN: My name is  
7 Randy Rosengren. R-A-N-D-Y,  
8 R-O-S-E-N-G-R-E-N.

9 I would like to try to relay why Rock  
10 Island Clean Line should not be granted  
11 public utility status by the Illinois  
12 Commerce Commission.

13 I do have skin in the game, as my  
14 wife and I own one-half mile of proposed  
15 right of way and lease another one and  
16 one-half miles of proposed right of way  
17 from two other long-term landowners.

18 I want to put that aside here tonight  
19 because there is something much bigger at  
20 stake than our farm.

21 Beyond skin in the game I also have  
22 blood in the game. It would be difficult  
23 to have given much more blood than I have  
24 for this country. I was wounded with a

1 land mine while serving in the United  
2 States in Vietnam.

3 Let me tell you one last thought of  
4 many of those young soldiers minds as he  
5 lies there bleeding to death for over 45  
6 minutes. Muscle gets stiff, the eyes get  
7 heavy, the breathing slows down, but the  
8 mind keeps going on. The last thought is  
9 the disappointment that I have to die on  
10 the side of a hill in this dismal,  
11 ravaged, uneducated, lawless, corrupt  
12 country. It is not going to be as bad for  
13 me to die as a lot of the others because  
14 bleeding is compassionate, but why does it  
15 have to be here? Oh how I want to be at  
16 home with my family, see my mother and  
17 father again and be in the United States  
18 to take that last breath. The best  
19 country there is. Our bright shining  
20 country is so precious and so longed for  
21 by all of us in that situation. It is  
22 almost like a brightly lit Thomas Kinkaid  
23 or Terry Redlin portrait at the end of a  
24 long, dark tunnel.

1                   So fast forward 43 years. Now here  
2                   in this country there are rich people.  
3                   There are people rich enough to hire the  
4                   Owen MacBride's of the world, some of the  
5                   best of the Chicago attorneys to twist the  
6                   laws of this great country for their  
7                   employer's personal gain. People rich  
8                   enough to hire the Hans Detweilers of the  
9                   world to promote a feel good public  
10                  relations in order to justify their cause  
11                  for their employer's gain. Rich enough to  
12                  come up with a scheme to transport  
13                  electricity from wind turbines and other  
14                  types of generators yet to be built in the  
15                  western states, transform it to direct  
16                  current, come across Illinois with no  
17                  access points to our AC wind turbines,  
18                  retransform it, put it on the grid in  
19                  Morris and ship it out to the eastern  
20                  states that most have said they don't want  
21                  and would rather produce their own. All  
22                  because they can charge more for it there  
23                  than where it's produced.

24                  Isn't the idea to end up with the

1 least expensive electricity possible?

2 From the very beginning this company  
3 has been deceitful by picking the name  
4 Rock Island Clean Line like another  
5 electric line following the railroad, when  
6 in fact it has nothing to do with the Rock  
7 Island line or clean energy, it is just a  
8 good promotional pitch.

9 Another promotional pitch is they  
10 imply that enough electricity will come to  
11 Illinois to supply 1.4 million homes.  
12 Don't bother to say almost all going to  
13 leave Illinois from Morris.

14 In this proceeding they have decided  
15 to apply for public utility status from  
16 the Illinois Commerce Commission even  
17 though they have no customers in the far  
18 end, no suppliers at the beginning end,  
19 and have stated that Illinois producers of  
20 energy cannot get on their line.

21 The public, public utility status  
22 doesn't mean as much to them as condemning  
23 easements will after they get it.

24 Also deceitful are claims on jobs.



1           We need long lasting jobs in Illinois, not  
2           temporary jobs for a few, while most of  
3           the labor for the highly specialized jobs  
4           on this scale of project follow from the  
5           start to the finish with workers from out  
6           of state. They also seem to not care  
7           about preventing long lasting jobs,  
8           producing and distributing energy in the  
9           states they want to send their electricity  
10          to. Those eastern states have the ability  
11          and resources to produce their own energy  
12          right at home where it is needed and the  
13          cheapest to transport.

14                 Yes, we need jobs, but how proud can  
15          we be of these short lived jobs from a  
16          company like this who wants to destroy,  
17          defeat and devalue the heart of Illinois  
18          farmland, our state's most precious  
19          resource, the same land that is holding  
20          the responsibility to feed our grandkids  
21          families and all generations beyond that  
22          for a few temporary jobs. How are we  
23          going to explain that?

24                 Most importantly, if the private

1           company like this is allowed to become a  
2           public utility for the reason of  
3           eventually taking property from any  
4           rightful owner, whether they worked for it  
5           for generations or inherited it and don't  
6           even know where it lays makes no  
7           difference. If they are allowed to take  
8           the property so they can make money from  
9           it and the rightful owner makes less,  
10          where did my country go?

11                 The Illinois Commerce Commission's  
12           job should be to protect us from this  
13           company intruding on the State of  
14           Illinois, not to promote it. To put the  
15           economic burden that has been shown in the  
16           many pages of witness testimony on our  
17           state and its people for eternity, for  
18           someone else's gain should not be  
19           tolerated.

20                 We already have enough actual public  
21           utilities in our state to provide for our  
22           people.

23                 Finally, I don't think it is some  
24           gray-haired veteran that gave almost as

1 much as he could for the love and respect  
2 of this country and was granted the wish  
3 to come home for that last breath that has  
4 these thoughts about this project. I  
5 think most of us here have the same  
6 thoughts about this company and their  
7 public utility scheme. Where has our  
8 country gone?

9 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
10 Richard K-A-P-R -- I can't read the rest.  
11 And then Steve Koester is next.

12 RICHARD KAPRAUN: R-I-C-H-A-R-D  
13 K-A-P-R-A-U-N.

14 I am opposed to this line because our  
15 human body's run on electricity. I had a  
16 pacemaker put in about three years ago and  
17 I have to avoid wherever there is any high  
18 voltage. And this would make that I  
19 couldn't probably go all over my farm or  
20 wherever I wanted to go. And they don't  
21 really know what causes it. So I will  
22 leave it at that.

23 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
24 Carol Wlodarchak is next.

1                                 STEVEN KOESTER: Steve Koester  
2                                 S-T-E-V-E, K-O-E-S-T-E-R. I'm a  
3                                 geometrical engineer working in DeKalb,  
4                                 Illinois. I would like to express my  
5                                 support for the Rock Island Clean Line  
6                                 project tonight. And the following are  
7                                 my reasons for supporting the Rock Island  
8                                 project.

9                                 The first reason I support the  
10                                project is that it would create jobs for  
11                                people such as myself and my coworkers in  
12                                northern Illinois. Engineers --  
13                                (inaudible) -- rock conditions in order to  
14                                help engineers and architects design  
15                                projects such as buildings, roads, bridges  
16                                and electrical transmission towers.

17                                The Clean Line energy project will  
18                                provide an extensive amount of work for  
19                                engineer firms. This work will require  
20                                soil borings in the design phase as well  
21                                as many hours of soil testing during  
22                                construction.

23                                Rock Island Clean Line will provide  
24                                work for drillers, technicians and

1 engineers and geologists in Illinois.

2 The second reason I am supporting  
3 Rock Island Clean Line is that it is good  
4 for the environment. The project will  
5 enable the increased development of wind  
6 energy in our country. Wind generated  
7 electricity is a clean renewable  
8 nonpolluting form of energy. The cost of  
9 producing electricity by wind is  
10 economical compared to oil. The impact  
11 (inaudible) to the environment associated  
12 with burning coal are considered, wind is  
13 obviously a better choice.

14 The final reason I am supporting the  
15 project is that Rock Island Clean Line  
16 project is good for the United States.  
17 The Rock Island Clean Line's moving  
18 electricity pipeline, if you will, that  
19 will take wind generated electricity from  
20 northwest Iowa where the wind resource is  
21 strong but electrical demands are weak to  
22 populated areas such as Chicago and points  
23 east where electrical demands are strong  
24 but the winds are weak, by utilizing

1 direct current line the electrical loss  
2 will be minimized along this long distance  
3 route. This project will allow wind  
4 energy resource in our Heartland to be  
5 utilized in population centers of our  
6 country while minimizing waste. This is  
7 good for our nation. Therefore, I support  
8 the Clean Line project and thank you for  
9 your time.

10 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
11 The next person is -- Gianna Chacen will  
12 be the next one.

13 Go ahead.

14 CAROL WLODARCHAK: Carol,  
15 C-A-R-O-L, Wlodarchak,  
16 W-L-O-D-A-R-C-H-A-K.

17 I am live on a family farm of  
18 120 acres just a few miles south of here,  
19 the place where my family has lived and  
20 farmed for nearly 150 years. My children  
21 are the sixth generation to live there.  
22 The south end of my family's property is  
23 in the immediate path of where the  
24 proposed Rock Island Clean Line is

1           supposed to go through. At least two of  
2           these proposed towers may be on my  
3           family's land. Depending on where the  
4           actual route would go through the farm,  
5           just the footprint of these towers and the  
6           access rights of way would affect at least  
7           12 to 15 acres of ground. Nearly  
8           one-tenth of the family farm is worth less  
9           and forever altered. This does not take  
10          into account the potential damage to  
11          drainage and tiling systems which have  
12          been installed over the years and the  
13          amount of erosion and loss of valuable  
14          topsoil due to disturbance of the ground  
15          to install footings and pilings for these  
16          towers.

17                 Now taking into account that my  
18          profession for nearly the last 14 years  
19          has been a local realtor, if I were  
20          working with a potential seller I would  
21          have to advise my client that his ground  
22          is less attractive to a buyer than his  
23          neighbor's ground without the towers.  
24          From the buyer's perspective they are

1 going to probably look at other more  
2 accessible farm ground to purchase without  
3 the hassle of easements and obstacles.

4 Productive farm ground is at a  
5 premium in Illinois and there will never  
6 be more manufactured so we need to  
7 preserve what we have.

8 According to the Illinois Association  
9 of Realtors' Licensing Manual, the  
10 definition of eminent domain is, and I  
11 quote, "The right of the government to  
12 acquire privately owned real estate for  
13 public use or purpose." The proposed use  
14 must be for the public good. Lost  
15 compensation must be paid and the rights  
16 of the landowner must be protected by the  
17 due process of the law. The laws must be  
18 uniform and not discriminatory. That this  
19 (inaudible) to the advantage or  
20 disadvantage of any one particular owner  
21 or owners.

22 RICL is distorting the definition of  
23 eminent domain by taking the private  
24 interest before the ICC for their own



1           advantage and financial benefit, not for  
2           the general good of the public.

3                   RICL will not help us as landowners  
4           and farmers like they want you to believe.  
5           I oppose RICL. This will severely devalue  
6           our land which is at its highest and best  
7           use already, growing corn. Thank you.

8                   HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
9           Virginia Baker is next.

10                   GIANNA CHACEN : Gianna Chacen,  
11           Dixon, Illinois. (Inaudible) as the last  
12           generation to -- I made progression  
13           towards new land energy. As a nation we  
14           have seen the devastating effects of the  
15           economy reduced natural gas materials.  
16           Whether it be in the east coast with  
17           hurricanes or on the west coast with the  
18           current flooding taking place in Colorado  
19           or even in here in the midwest with the  
20           recent droughts over the previous summer.

21                   As a member of the Community -- I  
22           understand how precious farmland is. Yet  
23           we must take steps to build a sustainable  
24           infrastructure such as a Rock Island Clean

1 Line. In order to (inaudible) -- our  
2 dependence on fossil fuel has led to  
3 increasing health risks such as asthma and  
4 to the destruction of our very  
5 environment. And for us to build this  
6 Clean Line we are saying we will no longer  
7 depend on that and we look forward to a  
8 better future.

9 Thank you for your time.

10 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

11 The next person is Westin Compo.

12 VIRGINIA BAKER: Virginia

13 Baker, V-I-R-G-I-N-I-A, B-A-K-E-R.

14 I am here today to show my support  
15 for Clean Line and to take a stand for a  
16 better future.

17 I am also part of a generation who  
18 hasn't had any control over our country's  
19 energy choices and now have to deal with  
20 the catastrophic effects of climate change  
21 in this world. It is imperative that we  
22 start taking steps to combat climate  
23 change and preserve our future.

24 A project like Clean Line will help

1 us wean ourselves off of fossil fuels and  
2 establish a cleaner, healthier energy  
3 future.

4 This project benefits not only the  
5 State of Illinois but our entire country  
6 and the world. I urge ICC to approve this  
7 project. Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
9 Kevin Borgia is next after Westin Compo.

10 WESTIN COMPO: My name is  
11 Westin Campo, W-E-S-T-I-N, C-A-M-P-O.

12 I support the Rock Island Clean Line  
13 because all over the country the fossil  
14 fuel industries are practicing destructive  
15 practices and destroying lands that people  
16 own regardless of what they want.

17 I mean, the English pipeline in this  
18 area -- and I compared anybody like even  
19 this to that -- or anybody talk about that  
20 except for one person. It is strange --  
21 (inaudible) -- so much destruction of your  
22 farmland but we are talking about with the  
23 Clean Line, we are talking about renewable  
24 wind energy. It is just very, very

1 strange to me that the things like this  
2 get fought -- I understand it is your  
3 property and I understand that, but this  
4 is definitely -- clean energy for -- to  
5 power the grid as opposed to fragments  
6 going on in Illinois right now where  
7 nobody is going to have a choice, nobody  
8 is going to have a chance. It is a  
9 dangerous process that will hurt people  
10 and very much risk their public health.  
11 This is not the same kind of thing and I  
12 support it because it is a chance for more  
13 clean energy.

14 Thank you.

15 HEARING OFFICER: John  
16 Sondgeroth will be next.

17 KEVIN BORGIA: Kevin Borgia,  
18 B-O-R-G-I-A.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to talk  
20 to you today.

21 I represent Wind Held Wires, we are  
22 an advocacy group. We represent rural  
23 economic development experts, energy  
24 experts and wind project developers, law

1 firms, agriculture organizations, local  
2 construction -- that's why I am here  
3 today, to support the Clean Line project.

4 Clean Line project is a big idea. It  
5 is an ambitious idea. Clean Line works --  
6 (inaudible). A term that is used across  
7 the great plains is electricity for  
8 America as much as 1,000 miles away.  
9 Those are big challenges. And big  
10 challenges take big ideas. And Clean Line  
11 has a big idea to take on the challenge.

12 Specifically we will support the  
13 Clean Line project because we believe it  
14 is good for Illinois for four reasons.

15 The first is simple, (inaudible) the  
16 plain Rock Island -- effective wind  
17 resources in the midwest, Clean Line will  
18 tap into that.

19 Second, generation of additional wind  
20 energy will reduce cost per -- a project  
21 specs is 3500 megawatts of new wind in  
22 Illinois. By simple law of supply and  
23 demand more supply reduces the cost.  
24 That's a simple idea. Take that a step

1 further. We looked at here in Illinois we  
2 have seen that wind power has  
3 significantly reduced energy prices.  
4 Here's how. Wind has no fuel cost. So  
5 when wind generators are able to bid their  
6 power into real time power, they under bid  
7 other sources that have an overhead of  
8 fuel costs and able to reduce the overall  
9 cost of electricity for all. That's a  
10 good thing.

11 Illinois Power agency studied this.

12 In the 2011 they saved everyone in  
13 the room \$177 million. That's big money.

14 Clean Line analysis save 320 million  
15 in two services -- (inaudible) -- and 242  
16 in 2020. Big numbers.

17 Number three, the reason I support  
18 this Clean Line transmission restructure  
19 facilitates efficient electricity market.  
20 Transmission protects consumers of  
21 unpredictability and vulnerability with  
22 the ability to buy power from other  
23 regions and move it efficiently on the  
24 grid.

1                   Number four, I believe the benefits  
2                   of the Rock Island spread fairly across  
3                   the region. We believe this reduces --  
4                   because we know that it reduces prices and  
5                   causes giant geographic area also because  
6                   it helps alleviate traffic jams on power  
7                   lines. Less congestion then equals lower  
8                   prices for consumers.

9                   Also research at my alma mater,  
10                  Illinois State University, is that Rock  
11                  Island Clean Line would create as much as  
12                  1400 construction jobs during the course  
13                  of this project, three years. More big  
14                  numbers. Local jobs, Illinois jobs,  
15                  that's important.

16                  So again, Wind and Wire strongly  
17                  supports Clean Line. We believe it's a  
18                  big idea, a smart idea. (Inaudible) Rock  
19                  Island, one of the those such projects  
20                  that help track this resource and bring  
21                  more clean -- to the heart of Illinois and  
22                  it is a good idea.

23                  We urge the Commission to support the  
24                  project.

1 HEARING OFFICER: Brett Larson  
2 will be after John.

3 JOHN SONDGEROTH: John  
4 Sondgeroth. Fourth generation farmer  
5 here in Mendota, Illinois. LaSalle  
6 County Farm Bureau member for over 30  
7 years. I oppose this project and support  
8 Illinois Farm Bureau 100 percent. And I  
9 have learned the hard way what is too  
10 good to be true always is.

11 HEARING OFFICER: The next  
12 person is M-U-N-R-O Norris.

13 BRETT LARSON: Brett Larson,  
14 B-R-E-T-T, L-A-R-S-O-N. I farm in  
15 LaSalle County and Grundy County. I  
16 reside in Morris. I farm with my dad. I  
17 see four truthful reasons to oppose RICL.

18 First of which is the permanent site  
19 damage to the farmland at each and every  
20 construction site.

21 The second of which lower farm  
22 efficiency with each operation that we do  
23 as farmers.

24 We have to farm around towers every



1 time we go into the field, whether it be  
2 fertilizing, tillage, seeding, spraying,  
3 whether it's with a ground rig or with a  
4 plane, it is inhibited. Or harvest, most  
5 importantly.

6 The true cost of this is time and  
7 lower production and yield.

8 And the third of which is the  
9 liability of having the tower in the field  
10 and the weeds underneath it that are going  
11 to grow.

12 The fourth of which does not benefit  
13 our local area.

14 Thank you.

15 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

16 Nick Johnson will be next.

17 MUNRO NORRIS: Munro Norris,  
18 M-U-N-R-O, N-O-R-R-I-S. I am a farmer in  
19 Bureau County. I oppose the Rock Island  
20 line. We must get them stopped. We all  
21 need to join the Illinois Farm Land  
22 Owners Association if you haven't already  
23 joined.

24 We want to thank you, the ICC, for

1 coming tonight. Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

3 Jeff Herrin will be next.

4 NICK JOHNSON: My name is Nick

5 Johnson, N-I-C-K, J-O-H-N-S-O-N. I am

6 here tonight on behalf of my parents. My

7 mother Patricia Johnson and my father

8 Felix Johnson were both from Ohio,

9 Illinois. Ohio is an area where Irish

10 ancestors settled. My grandfather

11 purchased our farm very long before I was

12 born. He passed it on to my father who

13 farmed it after he came home from the

14 Korean war until he died in 2006. My

15 mother continues to live on the farm.

16 She's 84 years old. I was raised in the

17 house on this farm. And this farm lies

18 directly in the path of RICL's proposed

19 transmission line. The route will cut

20 our field directly in half. No regard

21 for property lines or section lines or

22 side roads. And their route will travel

23 within 500 feet of my mother's house. So

24 my mother and I have a dog in this fight.

1           We are invested in what is being said  
2           here, trying to consider all side of the  
3           story. We are not selfish and naive  
4           enough to think we can stop this because  
5           we don't want gigantic poles in our back  
6           yard, but it is reasonable to believe  
7           that these poles could have a detrimental  
8           impact on the value of our property. We  
9           understand the desire for new revenues  
10          and job creation. Illinois is in tough  
11          shape. Utilities are a perpetual and we  
12          have to ask how long -- we have to  
13          question the long term benefits of this  
14          project well after these towers are  
15          built.

16                 We realize that people support  
17                 renewable energy, and I do too, but it is  
18                 reasonable to question business that  
19                 relies upon the dual benefits of  
20                 unregulated rates and public status in  
21                 order to compete in the market.

22                 So we see political leaders like our  
23                 President and our Governor showing signs  
24                 of support for this type of project. And

1 my mother takes keen interest in what they  
2 say. She mentioned to me that on one  
3 occasion that she would like to sit down  
4 with RICL and hear what they have to say.  
5 I could see her on the patio having a nice  
6 conversation with some nice people. But I  
7 am skeptical about their motive and  
8 intentions. I think we all realize RICL's  
9 primary mission is to generate maximum  
10 profit for their investors, regardless of  
11 where they are from.

12 Our interest as landowners, taxpayers  
13 or utility customers are not going to be  
14 in line with that commercial venture.

15 RICL seems to have vast resources  
16 right now, but I question who from this  
17 Limited Liability Company will be around  
18 20 years and beyond.

19 What happens if RICL underwriting  
20 assumptions are overly aggressive,  
21 especially in the face of cheap energy  
22 alternatives? I used to work for a firm  
23 called Arthur Anderson. We had a client  
24 called Enron. I have seen business plans

1 go sideways. It is not pretty.

2 Now I do appreciate that RICL is  
3 willing to conduct an appraisal to  
4 determine our just compensation, but I  
5 would suggest that their appraiser hired  
6 at their expense may not be as impartial  
7 as our good moderator on the panel.

8 In the conclusion, we hope the ICC  
9 respects our concerns, that they make a  
10 solid decision and they buck the notion  
11 that this puts us in.

12 Thank you.

13

14 HEARING OFFICER: Folks, we are  
15 on page 7 of 14 and a half. We have to  
16 leave now.

17 I would like to suggest to everyone  
18 in the room to write me. I have business  
19 cards up here that I will give you. And  
20 just send it to my e-mail address. Okay.

21

22 PARTICIPANT: What about  
23 another meeting since you have only been  
24 through half of them?

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HEARING OFFICER: Well, that is not up to me. It is up to somebody else. I will suggest it and we will see.

People who want my business cards just come on up.

(Hearing adjourned at 10:00 p.m.)

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