



Serving Municipal Utilities

May 3, 2019

The Honorable Dave Schatz
President Pro Tem
Missouri Senate
201 W Capitol Ave., Rm. 326
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Senator Schatz and Members of the Missouri Senate:

On behalf of thirty-nine (39) towns across Missouri, we are writing to express our strong support for the Grain Belt Express wind transmission line and urge you and the Missouri Senate to vote against HB 1062. This transmission line is one of the largest economic development projects in the entire state and will help power our towns, while saving every family and business in our communities a total of more than \$12.8 million annually on our electric bills. This \$500 million investment in infrastructure will create 1,500 jobs for Missourians, all without state subsidy. Please oppose HB 1062, which would kill these benefits to our local communities.

Passage of HB 1062 will hurt Missouri's economy and infrastructure progress. If the project is terminated, several rural school districts, out-state fire protection and ambulance districts, county roads, and rural libraries will lose out on over \$7.2 million in local tax revenues annually. If terminated, customers in several of the state's consumer-owned municipal utilities will lose more than \$12.8 million in transmission and energy savings from a collectively negotiated contract for low-cost, clean energy. If terminated, the state will lose out on a project that boosts investment in the state by \$500M and an opportunity for 1500 jobs. If terminated, Missouri industry loses – evidenced by the number of large industrial, manufacturing, and consumer companies that support the project – companies such as General Mills, Target, General Motors, Proctor & Gamble, Hubble Power Systems, Kellogg's, PAR Electrical Contractors, Nestlè, ABB, Unilever, Wal-Mart, and Owens Corning. Ultimately, Missouri loses the possibility for progress that is estimated to grow personal income in the state by \$246 million, gross domestic product by \$476 million, and state revenues by \$9.6 million.

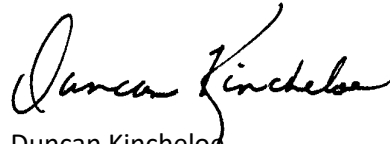
Our consumer-owned, local utilities represent hundreds of thousands of Missourians directly impacted by this project – currently more than 350,000 people. The issues raised by HB 1062 were deliberated in a lengthy process before the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC). For over five years, the PSC heard from constituents, landowners, and business owners as it reviewed the project's request to become a certificated public utility in Missouri. In the end, the PSC voted unanimously to approve the project based on its overwhelming merits and significant benefit to the public. Throughout this in-depth process, the PSC evaluated the ramifications on local property owners and ultimately built in landowner protections and a compensation structure for local property easements that is more generous than historically offered in our state. As a result, more than \$32 million is estimated to be provided in payments to Missouri landowners.

The Grain Belt Express project represents a rare opportunity for local businesses, residents, and property owners to jointly benefit, while creating a much-needed investment in the state's infrastructure for low-cost energy. Missouri may never see another opportunity with the merits and advantages of the Grain Belt Express project. We strongly urge you to consider the total gains, both public and private, that will be lost if this project is halted, and ask that you vote against HB 1062.

Sincerely,



Bruce Harrill, Chair
Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission
City Administrator, City of Waynesville



Duncan Kincheloe
President and General Manager
Missouri Public Utility Alliance



Chad Davis, Chair
Missouri Public Energy Pool
Operations Manager, Rolla Municipal Utilities



J.T. Hardy, Chair
Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities
City Administrator, City of Sullivan

CC: The Missouri Senate

Missouri towns already contracted to benefit from the Grain Belt Express project savings:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| • Albany | • Hannibal | • Odessa |
| • Ava | • Harrisonville | • Palmyra |
| • Bethany | • Hermann | • Rock Port |
| • Butler | • Higginsville | • Rolla |
| • Carrollton | • Jackson | • Salisbury |
| • Centralia | • Kirkwood | • Shelbina |
| • Chillicothe | • Lamar | • St. James |
| • Columbia | • La Plata | • Stanberry |
| • El Dorado Springs | • Lebanon | • Thayer |
| • Farmington | • Macon | • Trenton |
| • Fayette | • Marshall | • Unionville |
| • Fredericktown | • Memphis | • Vandalia |
| • Gallatin | • Monroe City | • Waynesville |

