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**MPUA News Release****Contact Information:**

Missouri Public Utility Alliance

Kerry Cordray, Public Information Officer

Email: [kcordray@mpua.org](mailto:kcordray@mpua.org)

Phone: 573-445-3279

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PSC DECISION OPENS DOOR FOR MORE AFFORDABLE, CLEAN POWER**

**COLUMBIA, MO, March 20, 2019** – Missouri’s municipal electric utilities are encouraged by today’s decision by the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) to grant a certificate of convenience and necessity to construct the Grain Belt Express (GBX), a transmission line bringing low-cost, clean energy into the state. A unanimous vote of five independent commissioners appointed by multiple Governors affirm that the project is in the public interest of all Missourians.

“We are pleased with today’s action by the Public Service Commission,” said Duncan Kincheloe, President and General Manager of the Missouri Public Utility Alliance. “The transmission project, along with a power purchase wind energy agreement, will deliver low-cost renewable electricity to Missouri homes and businesses, saving 39 non-profit municipal utilities in Missouri more than \$10 million annually.”

In June 2016, the Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission (MJMEUC) approved a proposal to increase the public power agency’s renewable energy supply by purchasing long-term transmission service on the GBX transmission project to allow delivery of affordable wind power. It is timed to replace more costly power contracts set to expire as the transmission project is scheduled to come on line.

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**About the Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission (MJMEUC)**

*The Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission (MJMEUC), an MPUA organization, is a non-profit Joint Action Agency that operates as an electric utility for the benefit of member cities and utilities. Established by state law in 1979 with six charter members, the Commission’s membership now includes 70 municipally-owned electric systems in Missouri and 4 advisory members in Arkansas, serving more than 495,000 customers. MJMEUC may construct, operate and maintain jointly-owned generation and transmission facilities and enter into contracts for power supply, transmission service, and other services for the operation of its member electric utilities. Each member is represented on the Board of Directors by a city-appointed director and alternate director with voting privileges.*