

ILLINOIS
COMMERCE COMMISSION

FEB 10 2014

Office of Chairman
And Commissioners

February 6, 2014

Re: Case No. "12-0598" Meredosla – Pawnee Segment

Mr. Doug Scott, Chairman
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, IL 62701

Dear Chairman Scott,

My name is Wayne A. Edwards and this letter is being written on behalf of my family, which includes my wife Janis, our sons Rob and Jay and their families, including our grandsons, Merrick and Callen, all of whom will benefit from ownership of our farms.

In addition to those mentioned above and with their permission, I am also writing on behalf of Mrs. Elizabeth Workman and her sons, Stephen and Donald Workman and their families.

I also have permission to write this letter on behalf of Mr. Tom Lucas, a long-time neighbor and friend of Waverly, IL, whose farm is located along the alternate route.

Ironically, more landowners are represented in this letter than appeared in opposition to the use of the KV138 route between Meredosla and Pawnee segment during the recent rehearing.

My aunt, Mrs. Workman, and I own two farms each along the proposed alternate route and all four farms will be affected. Mr. Lucas owns a tract of land where his primary residence is located, which will also be adversely affected by the use of the alternate route.

We oppose the use of the alternate route for the following reasons:

It will cost more to utilize the alternate route over \$36,000,000. Ameren appears to be unconcerned about this number, but I doubt the end users will be quite as unconcerned as Ameren, because they will be paying the bill.

The alternate route is over 18 miles longer. Later in this letter I will go into Ameren's opposition to placing the new transmission lines parallel to the existing KV138 corridor for fear of the possibilities of storms.

Shouldn't Ameren explain how adding over 18 additional miles of line exposure is supposed to provide less exposure. This project travels across the entire width of the state. Any storm of any magnitude coming from the south has the potential to damage their lines. If they actually believe this, shouldn't they be required to find a better way to transport their wind generated

electricity to customers in the eastern United States.

If Ameren prevails, they will be taking the land at their price as opposed to the farmer's price. Ameren's price will be a small portion of the worth of the farm land they pass through.

Unfortunately, that is not the full extent of damage that will be done. Ameren will put a tower or towers in the ground and the lines that will be carrying the high voltage over the top of the land. Many feet of the land under and around these high voltage wires, as well as the land within, will no longer be accessible to be farmed from the air. This would include seeding (in the event of a wet year) and spraying which is especially valuable for use on crops late in the season. These are only two applications. Many more will develop in the years ahead. Land that cannot be farmed using the latest technology is simply not worth as much as land which can. Accordingly, Ameren makes no provisions for these losses.

It is bad when they steal from my generation, it is much worse when they steal from children and grandchildren. The existing 138KV has already damaged the land it stretches across, but it is 18 miles shorter and 36,000,000 (36 Million Dollars) cheaper.

It is important to remember the 138KV route has been recommended by the ICC staff. All landowners along the 138KV line were notified of the rehearing, yet none objected.

If Ameren stock was devalued as much as our land will be, we doubt they would like it. Yet their attitude is "suck it up and move on, the law on our side".

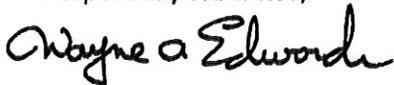
Ameren states they would prefer the alternate route because lines running parallel might cause problems in the event of a catastrophic storm, yet they and other power companies have lines running parallel to each other throughout the entire state. Our attorney Mr. McNamara requested Ameren provide our group with the number of Ameren power lines currently are running parallel to each other throughout the state. We are still awaiting an answer.

Mr. McNamara also requested Ameren provide their cost per mile of maintenance for existing single line and parallel line corridors. Guess what, we are still waiting.

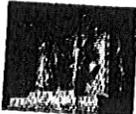
The 138KV corridor is already, in one respect, damaged goods. We hope you won't make a bad situation worse by impacting several hundred more acres of Illinois farm land.

Please use the 138KV corridor as the Commission staff has recommended.

Respectfully submitted,



Wayne A. Edwards



Mr Wayne Edwards

Chatham IL

