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ILLINOIS  
COMMERCE COMMISSION  
FEB 13 2014  
Office of Chairman  
And Commissioners

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Mr. Doug Scott  
Illinois Commerce Commission  
527 East Capital Avenue  
Springfield, Il. 62701

RE: Docket No:12-0598, Ameren Transmission Company Illinois Rivers Project- Meredosia Pawnee Segment

Dear Mr. Scott:

My name is Rita Bergschneider Walsh. I live in Sammamish and own two partials of land that would be affected by the Meredosia to Pawnee Segment of Transmission Company's proposed Illinois Three Rivers Project. The proposed line would run parallel to 96 acres of my farm, then turning south and running through 15 acres of tillable farm. I grew up on the farm and still continue to call Franklin II home.

I was fortunate enough to have inherited 111 acres from my parents, Paul and Eileen Bergschneider. My two sections would be damaged with a large tower turning south on the 96 acres. My parents struggled to maintain this farm with never taking a vacation. They sacrificed to be good farmers tending to the soil. And now, the Ameren Project seeks to destroy much of the land that my parents farmed for so many years. I want to continue the farming for my heirs.

- You and I are responsible for the citizens of this country. I believe we see the need to preserve our farmland. As we know you can't make new land. I know you must have a difficult decision to make. As a mother of six and teacher for 40 years I need to make decisions daily, I try to do what is right for my children and students.
- 1. My objection: Why would the ICC allow the company to build a longer and more expensive route, when a shorter, less expensive alternative is available? Isn't that route 18.3 miles shorter and will cost \$36.78 million less to construct? Who will pay the cost of the new line? Who will pay for the additional cost? Didn't the Commission Staff recommend the shorter route? Which route best serves our country's precious and non-renewable resource, SOIL?
- 2. Please consider the following from The Art of the Commonplace/ The Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry. In this Berry asks the question. How does the corporate takeover of *social institutions and economic practices contribute to the destruction of our human and natural environments?* I would like to share one of his main points:

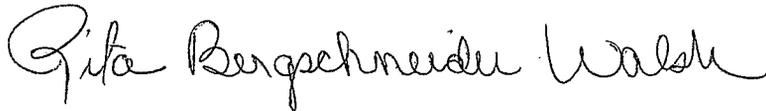
- **A good solution always answers the question, How much is enough? Industrial solutions have always rested on the assumptions that enough is all you can get. But that destroys agriculture, as it destroys nature and culture.**

I certainly could have sold my farm after my parents death and decided it is now my turn to care for the land. I could be retired, traveling, spending the profits, but know that I made the right choice.

Mr. Scott. I respectfully request that you consider the shorter and more economic route as recommended by the Commission Staff.

Sincerely,

Rita Bergschneider Walsh

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rita Bergschneider Walsh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.