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Waverly, IL 62692

ILLINOIS
COMMERCE COMMISSION

FEB 7 2014

Office of Chairman
And Commissioners

January 28, 2014

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

**Re: Docket No.: 12-0598. Ameren Transmission Company Illinois Rivers
Project/Meredosia to Pawnee Project**

Dear Mr. Scott:

I am writing to urge you to select the Morgan, Sangamon and Scott Land Preservation Group's proposed route utilizing the existing 138 kV route from Meredosia to Pawnee. This proposed route is 18.3 miles shorter and will save Ameren and its customers \$36.8-million. While this route would run parallel to the existing 138 kV line, the line will be shorter and thus, would reduce the potential of future storm damage.

My family has farmland that is in the direct path of the longer alternative route that Ameren is advocating. While we already have phone and water line easements along this property, we also have a Panhandle Eastern underground gas storage lease that has been in place since the early 1950's.

In recent years, our family has made a significant investment in subsurface tiling to drain our farmland in our quest to improve our crop yields and the value of our farm property. We regularly use aerial application of fungicides and insecticides to improve crop yields. Our tractors and combines use GPS signals for guidance and yield data. The installation of Ameren's transmission line across virgin farmland will 1) likely damage our recently installed field tiling plan, 2) interfere with our aerial applications, and 3) and create electrical interference for the GPS technology that we have invested in to make our farming approach more efficient and productive.

However, even with these problems, I am thankful that this Ameren Transmission line does not go by our home which is west of our farm field in question, approximately four miles away.

What I am highly concerned about are the 10 home owners -- neighbors, most of whom I know personally -- that live nearby approximately six to eight miles along the line in close proximity of this transmission line in South East Morgan County.

Some of the families have older, established homes while one couple recently completed their dream country home only to now learn that the transmission line is going to cross or be in very close proximity to their home. These families are concerned about the investment in their homes -- and the fact that should they decide to sell -- their property will be devalued in the eyes of potential buyers.

I know one family very well that was just on the verge of tearing down their current home and building a new home. Right now, their building plans are on hold as they await your decision.

Please choose the 138 kV route. It is my understanding that home construction has not occurred along the 138 kV route during the past 40-years since its construction. In this way, you will disrupt the lives of the fewest home owners and their families who will live along this route.

Sincerely,



Stephen L. Rhea
Partner/Farm Manager
Rhea Family Farms LP

CC: John T. Colgan, Commissioner
Ann McCabe, Commissioner
Miquel del Valle, Commissioner
Sherina E. Maye, Commissioner