

ILLINOIS
COMMERCE COMMISSION

FEB 21 2014

Office of Chairman
And Commissioners

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

RE: ICC Case 12-0598/Support for ICC proposed PDM/CFT (Channon) Route

Dear Chairman Scott,

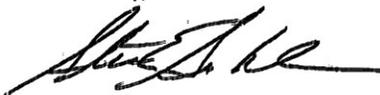
My family has farmed in Platt and Douglas Counties for more than one hundred years. As a property owner, I am strongly opposed to the Moultrie County Property Owners (MCPO) proposed route through Platt and Douglas Counties and support the Administrative Law Judges' selection of the Channon Family Trust (PDM/CFT/Staff) route. I oppose the MCPO route support the PDM/CFT/Staff route for the following reasons:

- the MCPO route is over 9 miles longer than the PDM/CFT/Staff route,
- the MCPO route would cost \$17 million more to construct than the PDM/CFT/Staff route,
- the MCPO route would include 50 more towers and spans than the PDM/CFT/Staff route,
- the MCPO route splits 103 family farms including our family farm. This is four times the number of farms impacted by the PDM/CFT/Staff route,
- the MCPO route would place these massive towers and high-voltage lines unnecessarily close to multiple towns,
- the MCPO route would run through the Arthur Amish Community, devastating this unique, historic area, forever destroying the area's beautiful, rural sight lines,
- the MCPO route travels miles off course to the north and negatively impacts 40% more cropland, more property owners, and far more communities,
- the MCPO route not only impacts more cropland, more prime farm ground, and more wetland areas, it would also require the clearing of forestland along three major rivers and would cross 19 more streams, causing far more damage to the ecosystem than the PDM/CFT/Staff route.

The PDM/CFT/Staff route follows Ameren's original, properly vetted routes through Moultrie County, which Ameren spent years studying, reviewing, publicizing, and refining based on feedback from multiple public forums and a review of numerous geographic sensitivities. Ameren has never even proposed or submitted any routes through Platt and Douglas Counties, and Douglas and Platt Counties were not even included in Ameren's formal petition to the ICC. The ICC Commissioners should reject the longer, more costly, and far more destructive MCPO route through Douglas and Platt Counties and support the Administrative Law Judges' selection of the PDM/CFT/Staff route through Moultrie County.

The stated mission of the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is to "pursue an appropriate balance between the interest of the consumers and existing and emerging service providers to ensure the provision of adequate, efficient, reliable, safe and least-cost public utility services". I appeal to you to follow your mission statement and duties as an appointed officer of the Commission and support the PDM/CFT/Staff route, which is the shorter, more direct, and more carefully studied route through Moultrie County.

Sincerely,



Steven E. Suhl

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Rochester, IL 62563