

**February 15, 2023**  
**SB 166 – Landowner disclosure**  
**Verbal and Written**  
**Proponent**

**From: John Donley, Kansas Farm Bureau, [john@devineanddonley.com](mailto:john@devineanddonley.com); (785) 246-8444**

**To: Senate Committee on Utilities, Senator Olson, Chairman**

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Chairman Olson and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present opposing testimony regarding SB 166 on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB.) KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

KFB sought the introduction of this bill when it came to our attention that the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) held that KSA 66-1,178 (one of the statutes requiring developers of transmission lines to seek a site permit from the KCC) only requires that the information (landowner names and addresses) be filed; it does not require the information to be filed in a manner accessible to the public. (See KCC Docket No. 23-NETE-585-STG In the matter of the Application of NextEra Energy Transmission Southwest, LLC for a Siting Permit for the Construction of a 345 kV Transmission line Through Coffey, Anderson, Bourbon, and Crawford Counties) The commission was questioning whether an applicant need not do anything but supply the information required. KSA 66-1,179 requires notice of public hearings to be sent to landowners.

KFB believes that landowners need to have access to the application information, especially landowner lists and proposed line locations, as soon as practicable, to verify whether their land is included in the proposed project. A landowner list is needed because it is often difficult to know from a location map exactly which property is included. Persons with an interest in affected properties, landowners and tenants, need this information as early as possible to be able to obtain legal representation if needed.

As the demand for renewable energy and electric transmission lines grows, the pressure on land and landowners will continue to increase. Disclosure of this information does not place a burden on the developer or the KCC. With early disclosure, persons with an interest in the affected land have an opportunity to contact developers if there is a potential problem with a proposed line. Early communications may build relationships and avoid costly litigation for all parties.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this issue, and I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.