



Since 1894

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SB 166 - AN ACT requiring disclosure of an application for a transmission line siting permit under the jurisdiction of the state corporation commission.

Oral-In Person

Proponent

From:

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To:

Senate Utilities Committee

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing more than 5,700 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf, and stocker cattle production; cattle feeding; dairy production; swine production; grazing land management; and diversified farming operations.

Thank you, Chairman Olson, and members of the Committee, for giving the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) the opportunity to share our views on SB 166. KLA supports SB 166 as a means to protect landowner property rights in regard to transmission line siting and development.

This bill directly addresses an issue impacting a number of our members, disrupting their operations and homes. When new transmission lines are proposed, landowners should be afforded the necessary information to protect their homes and businesses. Our members have not received this benefit even though it is statutorily required.

K.S.A. 66-1,178 requires that when a utility seeks to obtain a siting permit, they must file an application with the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) that includes its location, the names and addresses of the landowners whose land is impacted, and any other information required by the KCC. Any interpretation of this statute that seeks to prohibit access to this information, is a violation of state statute.

KLA member led policy supports, "legislative, judicial, and administrative initiatives that require governmental entities proposing to use eminent domain powers to acquire property for public or private projects to demonstrate that the proposed project does not violate state and federal laws prior to any condemnation of property." Any departure from the requirements set out under Kansas statute, goes directly against our memberships policy. We believe this bill further clarifies the necessary permit application requirements but places no additional burden on the developer or the KCC.

While this bill does not address this issue, KLA would also support creation of setback requirements from habitable structures. As our members will tell you, transmission lines and other structures are a significant impediment on the use and enjoyment of their private property. Additional attention should be given to the impact these structures have on the landowners they displace.

KLA appreciates the opportunity to appear as a proponent of SB 166. We ask that the Committee recommend the bill favorable for passage.