

Senate Committee on Utilities

Testimony In Support

SB166 AN ACT concerning electric transmission lines

CHAIR OLSON AND DISTINGUISH MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE

My name is Virginia Macha and a lifelong resident of Southeast Kansas. I truly love being rural, I love to see business succeed, but the thing I love the most is to watch multiple generations of Southeast Kansas families work together to continue their pursuit of the great American Dream. Those Dreams come with hard work, sacrifice, and sometimes those dreams come under attack by a government that has forgotten their role in the protection of these dreams when it comes to property rights. Protecting Freedom is the responsibility of everyone of us and by making sure that there is transparency in public policy when it comes to landownership then ever Kansas property owner wins.

SB 166 is doing just that. Making sure that transparency and accountability of public policy happens in a timely fashion when it comes to Landownership and the Utility Sector service providers need to be more respectful of those rights. Communication with every landowner is key. We all want to make sure that rules are followed, and property rights are respected. We all like to know our neighbors and their intentions are in the best interest of every landowner in Kansas. Knowing our neighbor in this instance for me, NextEra, has been anything but transparent and somewhat heavy handed at times when unethical tactics are used on everyday landowners who know less about a very complicated process. No communication creates chaos and to this day many landowners are still uninformed about siting plans that happen to affect their piece of paradise in rural Kansas. If SB 166 can make this process clearer to companies like Next ERA, then it is a good day for those generational landowners who continue to work on the legacy they will leave the next generation.

It is my opinion that SB 166 could be made even more landowner friendly if a Convenience Utility Privilege that was awarded to NEXTERA be

rescinded and the hearing that took place at The Corporation Commission included all pertinent testimony and not just select pieces may have rendered a different result.

I have included my spreadsheet of timelines of NextERA and a similar request by Grain belt Express Transmission lines where the public opinion counted. It is striking that NEXTERA who has no investment in Kansas could find the shortest path to being a Utility in Kansas. Those young landowners who came to me for advice about their situation should not have experienced a process that was slanted against them. Let SB 166 be the assuring piece of legislation that the system does work and property rights in Kansas still hold value.

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