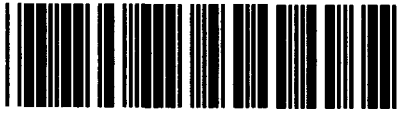




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Mr. Barry T. Smitherman, Commissioner
Public Utility Commission of Texas
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

June 3, 2006

Hello,

I own property in Fannin County and Dallas County. Brazos Electric Power Company has proposed to run high-voltage power lines across northern Fannin County, linking a proposed power plant in Hugo, OK to the Valley Substation at Savoy, TX. Here is why I adamantly feel you should oppose this project:

DEVASTATE LAND VALUES & TOURISM REVENUE

One of the poorest counties in Texas, Fannin County lacks a sizable city or vibrant industry. It's best hope for prosperity is its land values, because it is only an hour commute from North Dallas and 30 minutes from McKinney. In the last two years land values have begun to rise; unlike most rural counties our population has grown. Much of that is occurring in the northern half of the county where the best land buys are located. The Brazos proposal for power lines would destroy that growth in the county tax base.

Studies of Fannin County have determined that eco-tourism is a primary commerce growth area. Birdwatchers are a big part of it and wetlands are primary spots for that avocation. The largest block of land in Texas that has been dedicated to the Wetlands Reserve Program lies within the proposed new corridor.

NOT NECESSARY & A WASTE OF TAX MONEY

Rural Utilities Commission of Texas is earmarking 1.2 billion dollars to lend to Brazos for this project, even though two transmission corridors with 345kV transmission lines leading to the Valley Substation are already in existence. Brazos lines would provide power primarily to Oklahoma. Conversely, on April 20, 2006, TXU announced a 10-billion dollar expansion/upgrade program to meet future Texas energy needs. Unlike Brazos, they asked for no tax money.

ILLEGAL USE OF IMMINENT DOMAIN

Senate Bill 7 was passed in the summer of 2005 prohibits condemning private property for the following purposes:


1. conferring a private benefit to a private party;
2. public use when it is merely a pretext to confer a private benefit to a private party; and
3. economic development, except if it is a project to eliminate a slum or blighted area.

The Brazos project would violate #1 and #2. The area to be condemned is mostly residential or productive farm and ranch land.

In addition, Republican Sen. John Cornyn of Texas is co-sponsoring a bill that would reserve eminent domain only for public uses.

Why should residents of Fannin County see their properties devalued and then be forced to live with the potential of increased EMF health problems of high-intensity power lines only to benefit the citizens of Oklahoma? Why should tax money be given to a company like Brazos who brazenly disregards community concerns for a project that is no longer needed?

Sincerely,



Amy Martin
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