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## Smitherman, Barry

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**From:** Smitherman, Barry  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2009 1:02 PM  
**To:** 'Gary Gunter'  
**Subject:** RE: tran line

RECEIVED  
2009 JUN 18 PM 3:41  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Gunter,

Thank you for your email about the property tax implication of transmission lines in Docket No. 35665.

I appreciate your interest in this issue. However, because this is a contested case, I cannot talk with you about it substantively. I have filed your letter in the docket, along with this response, so that other parties are aware of your concern.

Chairman Barry Smitherman  
Public Utility Commission of Texas  
(512) 936-7025

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**From:** Gary Gunter [mailto:gig@1s.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2009 6:08 AM  
**To:** Smitherman, Barry  
**Subject:** tran line

Hello Mr. Smitherman,

My name is Gary Gunter, I am a resident of Armstrong Co. and wish to make comment concerning the proposed transmission line to be built in connect with the CREZ process.

First let me say I understand and appreciate the scope of your job in getting all this done in a way that will be timely and somewhat immune to future legal pitfalls.

I am a stockfarmer and thus have little knowledge of all the workings of the legal system; but do realize the hurdles that must be overcome in trying to satisfy everyone's needs materially as well as financially.

I would like to make one comment concerning this process, it has to do with the property tax issue. I call attention to the motion for rehearing by the City of Garland found in docket 35665 item 1349.

In this item the City of Garland calls attention to the fact they are a MOU and thus any line they build would not be subject to local property taxes. They further state this would provide power at the cheapest possible rate to the end customers.

I have no doubt this is true; but it would also be true to the detriment of other Texas citizens who are also customers themselves.

In Armstrong Co there is only one school district, the Claude Independent School District (CISD), the tax base for CISD is approximately 90 million. The present trans line proposal would build out approximately 45 miles of line across CISD adding considerable to the District's tax base.

Armstrong Co is one of the few Counties in the State which has no oil or gas production, and hardly any industrial tax base.

We need projects like the trans line which add to the tax base while placing very little added pressure on services supported by taxes !!!!!!!!!!!

Armstrong Co has little hope of soon having a wind farm on its property rolls because the current CREZ covers but a very small portion of the County.

(Why is this, I don't know for sure, but with a bit of a stretch, one can make the case it is because Armstrong Co is a dry county. Oh well, thats another story.....)

In closing I would like to encourage you to consider those who will have the line across their property forever more and the implication of the property tax issue of those lines.

True, the mandate is to provide the end customers with the lowest rates, but should these rates be made low on the backs of others?

Thank You

Gary Gunter