



Control Number: 38354



Item Number: 3571

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**Smitherman, Barry**

**From:** Mr. & Mrs. Ron Spiess---Tierra Linda Residents [arcats1@windstream.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 08, 2011 8:37 AM  
**To:** Smitherman, Barry; Nelson, Donna; Anderson, Kenneth; troy.fraser@senate.state.tx.us;  
doug.miller@house.state.tx.us; harvey.hilderbran@house.state.tx.us  
**Subject:** I want my letter posted on Docket# 38354

January 08, 2011 9:37 AM

Dear Public Leader,

When it comes to 18 stories-tall, high voltage electric transmission lines laid on top of the Texas Hill Country, the shortest and cheapest route is not necessarily the best. In some cases, such as the McCamey D to Kendall route proposed by Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), it can be one of the worst.

As the LCRA proposed route illustrates, it is time to re-think the policies governing the placement of electric transmission lines. When community values and irreplaceable environmental assets are at stake, we cannot let "shortest and cheapest" take precedence over "well-thought out and responsible." This approach will not help to create the 'smart grid' needed for the promise of renewable energy.

Right now, Texas is losing productive open space land faster than any other state in the nation. The proposed transmission line will exacerbate the fragmentation that is already rampant.

Texans and non-Texans alike enjoy and need our open space land, which provides the natural resources and natural processes that makes urban life possible: food, fiber, clean water, carbon sequestration, and oxygen production to name just a few. These same open spaces provide refuge that keeps our urban life worth living: wildlife habitat, natural beauty and a place to retreat from the noisy concrete crush of modernity. Loss of our open space also will mean the loss of primary economic engines in the Hill Country - ecotourism and recreation.

While costs must be considered, we cannot lose sight of the real bottom line: the state cannot afford to destroy the very environment that it purports to save with green energy transmission. When the untouched natural beauty of the Hill Country is gone, it's gone forever - and no amount of money will bring it back.

Time is running out for Clear View Alliance, the largest grassroots landowner group to ever intervene at PUC. Your help is needed NOW to insure a "well-thought-out and responsible" decision is made at the PUC. Texas' Hill Country is not a place to do "shortest and cheapest."

Please, as we look to the future, help find a way to pay for placing these transmission lines in the most industrial corridor that the Hill Country has to offer: the US 277/Interstate 10 highways. This route makes the most dollars and sense for the environment, for the people and for the future.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Ron Spiess---Tierra Linda Residents

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