



Control Number: 45866



Item Number: 1135

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**OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF POSITION TO PUC REGARDING POWER LINE FROM
LEANDER TO ROUND ROCK**

SOAH Docket # - 473-16-4342
PUC Docket No. 45866

Joel T. Rogers
(Representing father David L. Rogers and self as property owners)
4420 Sam Bass Rd.
Round Rock, TX 78681

Public Utility Commission of Texas
Filing Clerk
1701 N. Congress Ave.
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711

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David L. Rogers and myself, Joel T. Rogers his son and representative, are directly affected landowners by the proposed Leander-Round Rock 138-kV Transmission Line Project (Williamson County). I Joel T. Rogers have been granted intervener status on June 21, 2016 under Article 1052. We own a 2 acre property and house on the north side of Sam Bass Rd. adjacent to proposed segment O3 on the south side of Sam Bass Rd. Our comments on this power line's negative effects are listed next.

**IN NO WAY DO WE WANT THIS POWER LINE ON SAM BASS ROAD OR NEAR OUR
HOUSE**

In addition, I have spoken with multiple citizens and have been fortunate to have citizens sign my Change.org petition to show who did not want this power line on Sam Bass Road and why (<https://www.change.org/p/save-sam-bass-road>). Some of these comments are listed at the end of this document under Addendum A to demonstrate that other citizens agree with me and my father regarding the harm of this power line.

THE DAMAGES OF THIS POWER LINE

1. LOWER PROPERTY VALUES: My father and I do not want our property values lowered by this power line. This power line will certainly lower our property values and that harms YOUR CITIZENS and THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. If we are damaged by the power line it will become more difficult to sell and we will not get as much for our home. A citizen in the comments below and found on <https://www.change.org/p/save-sam-bass-road>, has stated that they have already lost a bid for their home because of this power line. That proves this harms our property and my father and I agree.

1135

2. PHYSICAL HARM TO CITIZENS' PROPERTY: This power line will ruin the looks of my father's home and property. Others who have signed my petition agree. Why would we want an 80 foot power line along the road of our community that we have lived in for over 40 years? I have also learned that some peoples' septic tanks that exist near the south side of the road will be destroyed and have to be re-built if this power line is put through. That will cost more money but MORE IMPORTANTLY it alters citizens property. In addition, some see this will ruin the looks of their house and yard. Also, beautiful oak trees and others will have to be cut down and that physically harms our lands and our Sam Bass Rd when we drive it. Eminent domain will cause citizens to lose some of their property making it smaller. All of this is BAD. There are those of us who do not want our homes or community's appearance damaged at all; especially, while we are forced to **pay higher and higher local taxes** because the cities keep promoting more and more growth by giving away tax money to developers and corporations so that businesses and city councils make more money.

3. CITIZEN ENJOYMENT OF THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD: This power line will lower our enjoyment of our homes and Sam Bass Rd. and that harms my father and me. WE AND THE OTHERS IN THIS AREA ARE YOUR CITIZENS and THESE ARE OUR CONSTITUTIONAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. We moved here because we loved it not because we were looking for our community to be ruined by an ugly and dangerous power line. There are comments from my Change.org petition at the end of this doc that agree. Comment 19 states that Sam Bass Road, Brushy Creek and Hairy Man Road are that citizen's favorite places and cannot understand why anyone would want to build a power line on them and ruin them because it ruins our enjoyment. He further states that he **WOULD RATHER HAVE THE POWERLINE NEAR 1431 WHERE HE LIVES RATHER THAN SAM BASS RD., BRUSHY CREEK, AND HAIRY MAN ROAD WHERE HE DOES NOT LIVE BUT AN AREA HE LOVES. THAT IS A TRUE CONSTITUTIONAL CITIZEN WHO HAS REAL VALUES!**

4. HEALTH DAMAGE TO PEOPLE: These power lines have been claimed NOT to cause cancer (<http://www.forbes.com/sites/stevensalzburg/2014/09/01/do-high-voltage-power-lines-cause-cancer/#5187c3d67f1c>), yet other harm could obviously occur by being exposed to that strong electric current above or near our homes. This could harm people's children and grandchildren etc. **That is very bad.** Several people on my petition comment about this also.

5. HEALTH DAMAGE TO OUR PETS AND WILDLIFE: This power line could be harmful to citizens' pets and wildlife that live near it especially with this power line hovering over houses next to Sam Bass Rd. or anywhere else.

NOTE: I have unlikely covered all damages that other citizens may experience but I have tried to cover ours and all I can find. My two proposals are noted below. Please note that the 2nd Proposal is designed to prevent a totally different set of damages that are listed in it.

1st PROPOSED SOLUTION – BURY POWER LINE

This power line could be buried; however, we do not want buried it on Sam Bass Rd. because Sam Bass Rd. is too narrow and peaceful as stated above and below in the comments. I want to state that I DO NOT WANT ANY CITIZENS HARMED BY THIS PROJECT NOR DO I WANT BRUSHY CREEK HARMED. ALL CITIZENS NEED YOUR GOVERNMENT PROTECTION.

One key option is to bury the power line along FM 1431 so that citizens who live along those roads are ALSO less harmed since 1431 is much wider and citizens' lands would be less harmed with less eminent domain.

By burying this line the government will help all citizens. I feel this is a good solution.

There is however, a second solution that I suggest below that gives reasons why to stop the project all together for a larger issue.

2nd PROPOSED SOLUTION – STOP THE POWER LINE COMPLETELY TO SERVE CONSTITUTIONAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND NOT “VIBRANT ECONOMIC GROWTH”

EXCESSIVE GROWTH APPEARS PROMOTED BY LCRA REGARDLESS OF DAMAGE TO CITIZENS' HOMES.

LCRA ISSUE

LCRA's Phil Wilson makes the following comment, "This electric infrastructure project is of **vital importance** to maintain **the vibrant economic growth and high quality of life** that has driven this area of Texas to be among the **most desirable** and rapidly growing regions in the United States." (<http://www.lcra.org/energy/electric-transmission/transmission-line-routing/Documents/Letter-to-Interested-Stakeholders-Leander-to-Round-Rock-Project.pdf>).

Why is Mr. Phil Wilson willing to sacrifice citizens for "**vibrant economic growth and high quality of life**", which is neither vibrant nor high quality as I show below under "**EXAMPLES OF NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF EXCESSIVE GROWTH ENCOURAGED BY LCRA**"? How is this area of Texas "**desirable**" when one looks at the terrible effects of this growth compared to what it was 20+ year ago? Is it more important to serve million- and billion-dollar corporations to encourage them to come here rather than the citizens who already live here? Is it also better to take jobs from other states and put their citizens out of work? If this was a necessity because citizens needed electricity that MIGHT be different, but we would have to

wonder why the cities and counties had not planned for that much growth or stopped it to protect their communities and prevented the need for another power line.

Growth should be about birth and minimal amounts of people moving in and out, not Constitutional governments promoting more and more growth by bringing in massive amounts of corporations and people and socially engineering our communities that we have loved into something totally different.

After reading John B. Gordan's Position Statement 1077 I have begun to wonder about the LCRA even more.

EXAMPLES OF NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF EXCESSIVE GROWTH ENCOURAGED BY LCRA

Some of the damages of this excessive growth are listed next and harm our quality of life, NOT MAKING IT "VIBRANT".

1. **Increased rude and deadly traffic** (Seen everywhere especially on IH-35);
2. **Increased crime** (*Please see ADDENDUM B: EVIDENCE OF INCREASED CRIME below*);
3. **Harming our Law Enforcement officers by increasing the crime and dangerous traffic;**
4. **Increased taxes;**
5. **Increased appraisal values** (running people out of larger towns);
6. **Influx of business-obsessed people rather than Texas-type people with true values;**
7. **City and county governments that do not listen to our concerns but promote more and more growth even against our opposition, thereby not serving us** (*Please see ADDENDUM C: EVIDENCE OF CITY/COUNTY PROMOTION OF GROWTH below*);
8. **State of Texas promoting Foreign Entanglement** (<http://www.bizjournals.com/houston/news/2015/06/04/abbott-plans-to-travel-nation-world-to-promote.html>, <http://www.caller.com/news/state/state-bureau/gov-greg-abbott-wants-texas-as-a-top-global-economy-ep-932438723.html>), more growth than Rick Perry did (<http://www.caller.com/news/state/state-bureau/gov-greg-abbott-wants-texas-as-a-top-global-economy-ep-932438723.html>) and a flood of traffic from foreign countries to support American corporations who have sent American jobs overseas;
George Washington – 1796: "Tis our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with a portion of the foreign world."
9. **State of Texas Social-Engineering** into something NON-TEXAN through massive growth (<http://www.breitbart.com/texas/2015/03/09/texas-population-to-double-by-2050-says-report/>), while governments brag about Texas values that they are changing to bring people here; and,
10. **Excessive growth that will threaten our Texas water supply – Our water should be protected from excessive growth so that we do not have a crisis or a Senator that passes a law that takes our water from rural areas to feed overgrown cities** (<http://austincountynewsonline.com/california-water-model-comes-to-texas-senate/>).

It is becoming more and more miserable and more expensive to live in Texas if you are from Texas. The people who come here often see the costs, taxes, traffic, and maybe crime as less than where they came from; BUT, for us who have lived here all our lives ALL OF THESE ARE MUCH WORSE. **That is not serving the citizens because newcomers are NOT citizens until they arrive, and a level of government should**

not promote them here through jobs over their existing citizens. It appears that the population is being changed into something totally different and that is NOT what we want government for. We chose to live here because we loved it not because we wanted money or massive change into a non-Texas atmosphere.

And again, this fascism issue of promoting growth is nothing but making cities, developers, and corporations more money, making the city councils more powerful and less under our control, costing original citizens more money, and providing so many jobs that more and more people keep coming in massive quantities and ruining our communities. That is **NOT FREE MARKET**. I want a **CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT THAT DOES NOT SACRIFICE ITS CITIZENS FOR COMMERCE, INCLUDING POWER LINES, IN ORDER TO ASSIST CORPORATIONS TO MAKE MORE MONEY AND ESPECIALLY NOT FOR CITIES TO MAKE MORE MONEY, WHICH MAKES THEM MORE POWERFUL AND LESS UNDER OUR CONTROL.**

SUMMARY

I grew up in Georgetown, Pflugerville, and Round Rock and loved it here. It is absurd that we need more economic growth. Why? Because people living here can have jobs or **they can move JUST AS HUMANS HAVE HAD TO DO SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME**. I have moved several times in my life but always wanted to come back here. Now I have little joy in my home town. It is not necessary to provide jobs for the rest of the nation. In addition, this does not make Texas better or make a "high quality of life". What is "**vibrant**" about commerce? Commerce is necessary but for true people, and **TRUE TEXANS, a good life is about honesty, love for family and friends, principals, values, honor, driving safely, pleasant communities, and enjoying your home and neighborhood....not changing it into a Los Angeles for money-obsessed people**. In addition, it is noteworthy that the American dollar, that some people seem obsessed with, continues to decline and we must wonder if it will even last much longer. So why is "**vibrant economic growth**" more important than preparing Texas for a massive economic crash that appears coming? Is it better to have millions more people here who do not live on farms and ranches to provide for themselves if this dollar collapses and they will have no jobs and likely no food or gasoline and anarchy begins?

Therefore, I find Mr. Phil Wilson's comment highly offensive in light of the massive damage that growth has done to Texas in the last 20 years. **IT IS NOT RIGHT TO SELECT A GROUP OF CITIZENS' AND THEIR PROPERTIES TO BE SACRIFICED BY PLACING A POWER LINE OVER THEM WHEN IT COULD BE BURIED OR EVEN PREVENTED ALL TOGETHER BY STATE, COUNTY, AND CITY GOVERNMENTS SERVING THEIR EXISTING CITIZENS AND NOT COMMERCE AND NON-CITIZENS.**

Please take this information into review and see that Texas is not being served by socially engineering it into something else and changing the population into something that wants more and more products that makes businesses and governments more money. Therefore, Mr. Wilson's comment **MUST MAKE US ASK WHAT THE STATE OF TEXAS GOVERNMENT AND ITS CITIES ARE TRULY TRYING TO SERVE. WE CAN START CORRECTING IT.**

FINAL COMMENT

IF ANYONE FEELS THIS IS NOT RELATED TO THE POWER LINE ISSUE THEN PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS THE **BIGGER PICTURE** AND MR. WILSON IS THE ONE WHO BROUGHT OUT THE ISSUE NOT ME. I HAVE PROVIDED THIS INFORMATION AS EVIDENCE OF WHY I AM OPPOSING THE PUSH FOR A POWER LINE TO SUPPORT "VIBRANT ECONOMIC GROWTH" SO THAT IT IS NOT SEEN AS UNRELATED TO THIS TRIAL. IF I HAD ONLY WRITTEN A FEW SENTENCES IT WOULD HAVE HAD LITTLE EFFECT. I LOVE TRUE VALUES AND A TRUE PEACEFUL TEXAS COMMUNITY MUCH MORE THAN I LOVE COMMERCE AND MONEY. THOSE 2 THINGS ARE NECESSARY BUT A COMMUNITY IS FOR ITS PEOPLE TO ENJOY NOT TO PROMOTE GROWTH AND JOBS.

MY WEBSITE, WWW.SAVE-TEXAS.COM HAS MORE INFORMATION UNDER THE PAGE "OPPOSE PROMOTING TEXAS GROWTH".

THANK YOU.

JOEL T. ROGERS

ADDENDUM A

COMMENTS FROM CHANGE.ORG PETITION BY JOEL T. ROGERS - <https://www.change.org/p/save-sam-bass-road>

1. "I live on Sam Bass and don't need a power line in my front yard just because they need them for all the house farms being built in the area. We bought here because we have acres to live on. Very peaceful. You have a major road one block over that does not have houses facing the street. All these contractors should be responsible for power lines not the people who have been living in the area for years. Ask them if they would like one in their front yard while their children play outside."
2. "The current drive on Sam Bass feels serene, passing through wooded areas and past waterfalls welcoming residents to beautiful subdivisions. High transmission lines would ruin the area's charm and decrease property values. Please consider running the lines through Leander Road to the north, through the already ugly gravel pits and sparsely populated area with no trails."
3. "I am concerned about decreasing property values. Our home is for sale and we have had one offer withdrawn because of the potential placement of the power line along Sam Bass Road. No other offers have been made, we assume for the same reason."
4. "I feel that this will destroy the looks of my beautiful yard and lower my property value! I also feel strongly that this line could harm the health of my family and our neighbors!!"
5. "I do not desire this neighborhood I live in to be ruined by this intrusive transmission line when it can do well to be constructed out of the way of Sam Bass Road."
6. "There are other places to run this power line that is not right through several neighborhoods"

7. "Sam Bass Road is a country road with much beauty and wildlife that should not be disturbed. Please keep industrial growth to 1431 and more highly populated roads. Thank you."
8. "I do not want my children exposed to this, and it will ruin the charm of sam bass road. Other paths with bigger easements are a better option."
9. "I've lived here my whole life and I can't imagine long distance transmission lines traveling straight through the neighborhood I love so much"
10. "This would cause significant economic harm to an area to homeowners and Sam Bass is too narrow for this project. 1431 is a better location."
11. "I want to keep my neighborhood safe"
12. "Stop destroying nature for something that isn't needed. There are plenty of large roads where you can run the stupid powerlines by."
13. "Because I'm directly and adversely impacted by this. It would not only ruin the road, but our house and the home environment where we are raising our children and hope to create a long term future."
14. "This will affect the area where many of us are trying to live and enjoy a fit life without the effects of added industrial health hazards"
15. "Because I don't want giant powerlines to go through beautiful private neighborhoods in the front yard of people when 1431 is a major highway"
16. "I do not want those power lines near my home for health reasons and it will also be very damaging to the natural park we have tried hard to develop . Do it somewhere else."
17. "I am signing this petition because I am against dangerous electricity being installed near our home and damage the enjoyment of our roads and impact negatively on the property value of our land."
18. "This would ruin our neighborhood."
19. "I've only lived in Round Rock for two years but Sam Bass Road, Brushy Creek and Hairy Man Road quickly became my family's favorite places in town. I can't understand why anyone would consider putting power lines along any of them (and that ugly freeway bridge they just built over what used to be a tree tunnel on Hairy Man Rd is a crime). I now live on the north side of 1431 and frankly I'd rather see the power lines here than anywhere near Brushy Creek and Sam Bass."
20. "I want to preserve the beauty of our neighborhoods."

ADDENDUM B

EVIDENCE OF INCREASED CRIME: The Austin American Statesman (AAS) dated September 4, 2016 has an article on page 1 called "Report: 20% shot by cops in Texas were not armed". One must ask how defensive our law enforcement officers are becoming with the increasing crime. And of course police were shot in Dallas this year by snipers also.

The September 2, 2016 version of AAS has an article on page B1 where 2 Austin students were hit by cars whose drivers did not have sense enough to stop before a stopped school bus letting students out.

On the same paper on page B5 is an article about a motorcycle driver run into an killed and another article in which a dangerous and rude driver rammed into 2 Travis County Sheriff's Deputies who chased him down.

On the same page B5 an Austin motorcycle police officer was critically injured when a driver tried to illegally cut through a funeral.

How do we need these types of people here in Texas? I could list many more articles about this including some who murder their own children and wife or those who rape UT students, but this gives enough information that Central Texas has changed to much worse crime. Texas has never had these types of issues **at this level** until the last ~10 years.

ADDENDUM C

EVIDENCE OF CITY/COUNTY PROMOTION OF GROWTH

Round Rock has promoted a water park on the East side of Hwy. 79 that local land owners have commented will ruin their enjoyment of their land but flood in much more traffic, which harms, not helps, our town.

Round Rock wants to change Great Oaks Blvd. into a 4 lane highway that will promote more and more traffic that they have helped bring in and will harm the enjoyment of the people who live in Great Oaks.

Round Rock wants to put in 82 condos near downtown Round Rock on a 3.7 acre lot because they want Round Rock open 24-7 rather than being a peaceful town it once was.

As noted by comment 19 below, there is a bridge built over Harry Man Rd. that has ruined how beautiful it was and it should be noted that at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2J6T8Uxqk&feature=youtu.be> Williamson County has a video in which they will change the intersection of Harry Man Rd. and Great Oaks, once quiet peaceful roads, into an overpass to handle the increased amount of traffic and help safety as if that is a great idea when neither Round Rock nor Williamson Co. should ever had brought in so many people and ruined this UNIQUE road.

And if anyone disagrees about stopping bringing in so many people to protect and preserve or communities then why do cities and counties have the rights to stop something like a top-less bar or an alcohol store? Because the original Texas citizens had the right to stop items they felt were bad for the community via a vote and keep their community clean, but with the State and Cities promoting MORE AND MORE growth the massive amount of new citizens can change the vote and have what the true original citizens did not want.