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Public Utility Commission of Texas Central Records
1701 N. Congress Ave
PO Box 13326
Austin, TX 78701

To Whom It May Concern,

As residents on Cedar Crest Drive of the Hardeman Estates Neighborhood, located in Justin, TX, we stongly oppose LINK J4 of the proposed route options presented in the provided maps for the proposed Ramhorn Hill - Dunham 345 k/V Project by the Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC ("Oncor"). The proximity of these high-voltage transmission lines to our homes, will have serious adverse effects on our community. Our main concerns revolve around the health and safety of our families, pets, plants, wildlife, and the overall community. Additionally, we are apprehensive about the potential impact on property values and the aesthetics of our neighborhood.

Numerous scientific studies have documented the health risks associated with long-term exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF) and extremely low frequencies (ELF) emitted by high voltage transmission lines. We are including several studies done by scientific and environmental experts, proving the risks, at the conclusion of this letter. These frequencies are known to be harmful, and the risks they pose have been extensively researched and recognized not only in the United States but also worldwide. Apart from health concerns, we have learned about the increased risks of electric shocks from various metal objects, like metal fences, parked vehicles, bicycles, trampolines, mailboxes, barbecue grills, etc., if located too close to a high-voltage line, creating additional dangers for our families and children while they engage in day-to-day activities.

Our neighborhood, including the greenbelt area south of Cedar Crest Drive and the community park, are cherished places where our children play and explore the natural environment. These transmission lines would disrupt the beauty of nature in our community, endangering wildlife and forcing habitat displacement. Trail creek is a place where we all go fishing and watch for migrating birds. Furthermore, the proposed LINK J4 route passes close to homes where families with health conditions reside, raising concerns about potential health complications from EMF exposure. There is also evidence showing potential harmful health effects on our precious pets.

Our home, like many others on Cedar Crest Drive, would be significantly affected by the presence of these transmission lines. Many of our neighbors whose homes back up to the greenbelt are dear friends and have become like family in the few years that we have lived here. Some of the homes on Cedar Crest Drive are owned by families that moved here intending to retire here in their forever homes. A few of those neighbors have health issues like; hypersensitivity, dementia, autism, tinnitus, diabetes, cancer survivors, etc., that could worsen, and quickly, from exposure to the EMF frequencies these transmission lines emit. This proposal by ONCOR, to place such a high amount of voltage as 345 k/V in close proximity to areas with young children, elderly people, people with health conditions, and risking perfectly healthy peoples' health shows a complete lack of concern for humankind and is very disturbing.

As someone who suffers from tinnitus, my personal health would be further compromised due to the constant hum and associated headaches from the high-voltage lines. My husband has suffered hair loss and frequent migraines from EMF exposure in the past. My sister, who visits us quite frequently and stays with us for weeks at a time, has rods and bolts in her spine from scoliosis corrective surgery. Electric shocks being an unpredictable possibility on metals near transmission lines is evidence enough, that there is a potential risk that can negatively impact a body that has metals in it, similar to people with pacemakers and defibrillators.

My family has invested considerable time and resources in making our home a place of comfort and safety. We enjoy our time here and put a lot of thought into all the details of our home to make it our very own. However, the presence of LINK J4 would make it untenable for us to continue living here. As a young family with hopes of expanding, we are deeply concerned about the potential risks associated with EMF exposure during fertility, pregnancy, and child development. It is essential for us to live in an area away from high-voltage lines, as we are aware of the potential health risks linked to EMFs. We do everything we can to make healthy choices and this would be detrimental to our efforts.

When we were shopping for a home we specifically looked in areas far away from high-voltage lines. We have done research on the effects of EMF's in the past, because of health issues and because we have family that does live in close proximity to high-voltage lines like the ones proposed by Oncor. The potential health risks would force us to sell our home at a decreased value and would be more difficult and potentially take more time to sell. Finding a replacement home in today's market and high interest rates would be impossible.

Apart from health concerns, the visual impact of these towering structures would negatively affect the aesthetics of our community, thereby conceivably

influencing property values. Apprehensions pertaining to health risks linked to proximity to high-voltage power lines may cause reduced demand for properties within close vicinity, influencing property values. The presence of power lines may create limitations on permissible land use options for properties, impacting development prospects and property values.

Several of the homes along the creek on Cedar Crest Drive will be within 500ft of the proposed LINK J4 route; which are at a greater risk of negative and harmful effects on health, property values, and the environment. It is difficult to understand how this proposed route would pass any prudent avoidance protocols, since existing homes, a community park, a new Town Square that is in the process of development, wildlife habitats, a daycare, and an Elementary School, are all along the proposed route: LINK J4. Developing children are at a elevated risk of negative effects.

The visual eyesore of these high towers, reaching approximately 145 feet in the air, with arms spanning 20-30 feet, and a base of 100 feet are unsightly. The only other monument erected at or near the height of the proposed transmission lines are the City of Justin water towers, that would make these towers stick out like a sore thumb, especially considering all the trees that would have to be removed. Routing a massive transmission line right through the heart of our city is wrong and will massively impact the current and future growth of our city. We, along with our neighbors and city, strongly oppose LINK J4 and have come together in unity and sought legal counsel to fight this with all we have.

We beseech ONCOR and the Public Utility Commission to choose a safer route that will not affect families, especially since these transmission lines will not even be servicing our community, per the Oncor representative speaking at our City Council meetings. The proposed route also raises safety concerns during weather events such as tornadoes, winds, and lightning storms. Tornadoes are a common weather event here, as well as winds, and lightning storms, among other environmental risks. High-voltage power lines can pose a fire hazard, especially during dry and windy conditions when a line or equipment failure can cause sparks or arcing. High-voltage power lines can interfere with nearby electronic devices, communication systems, and sensitive equipment. High-voltage power lines carry a significant amount of electricity, and contact with these lines can be extremely dangerous and potentially fatal. Over time, high-voltage power lines can corrode and deteriorate, necessitating regular maintenance and replacement.

Numerous scientific studies have been conducted over the years to investigate the potential health risks of long-term exposure to non-ionizing EMF emitted by high-voltage power lines and other sources. These studies have been

published in reputable peer-reviewed journals and are widely recognized as significant contributions to the understanding of EMF exposure and its potential implications on human health. Please keep in mind that this is not an exhaustive list, and there are many other studies investigating various health aspects related to non-ionizing EMF exposure. For a comprehensive understanding, it is advisable to refer to scientific databases, peer-reviewed journals, and official publications from health organizations. Additionally, the interpretation of these studies and their findings may vary, and scientific consensus on the health effects of non-ionizing EMF exposure is still evolving.

Health organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), continue to monitor and review the research on this topic. As a precautionary measure, some health guidelines recommend limiting exposure to EMF, especially for vulnerable populations such as children and pregnant women. However, more research is needed to establish definitive conclusions about the long-term health effects of EMF exposure.

We intend to intervene and strongly oppose this proposal through any and all means necessary to prevent this transmission line from being considered near our homes. Considering the scientific evidence on EMF exposure, we urge ONCOR and the PUCT to STOP the LINK J4 segment from being considered in their proposed Ramhorn Hill - Dunham 345 k/V Project. Alternatively, construction of these lines should ideally be along railroads or roadways. SH 114 will be expanding in the near future, why not coordinate efforts and bury the lines under the highway with access tunnels for maintenance and repairs. The responsibility to protect the health and welfare of communities living in proximity to power line installations is paramount and should be at the forefront of decision-making processes.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We trust that your company will act responsibly and diligently in addressing these concerns and implementing necessary measures to ensure the safety and health of the public.

Sincerely,

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Studies and literature on health effects for consideration:

1. <https://www.epa.gov/radtown/electric-and-magnetic-fields-power-lines>
2. <https://www.emfs.info/effects/medical-devices/>
3. <https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML1209/ML12090A853.pdf>
4. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19746892/>
5. "Long-term exposure to magnetic fields and the risks of Alzheimer's disease and breast cancer: Further biological research" - Savitz et al., Bioelectromagnetics, 2014
6. Draper G, Vincent T, Kroll ME, Swanson J. Childhood cancer in relation to distance from high-voltage power lines in England and Wales: a case-control study. BMJ. 2005 Jun 11;330(7503):1290. doi: 10.1136/bmj.330.7503.1290.
7. Henshaw DL, Reiter RJ. Do magnetic fields cause increased risk of childhood leukemia via melatonin disruption? Bioelectromagnetics. 2005;Suppl 7:S86-97. doi: 10.1002/bem.20155.
8. Havas M, (2006) Electromagnetic hypersensitivity: biological effects of dirty electricity with emphasis on diabetes and multiple sclerosis.
9. De-Kun Li, MD, PhD; Hong Chen, MPH; Roxana Odouli, MSPH, Maternal Exposure to Magnetic Fields During Pregnancy in Relation to the Risk of Asthma in Offspring, Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med. 2011
10. <https://europepmc.org/article/MED/34761114#free-full-text>
11. Li DK, Odouli R, Wi S, et al. A population-based prospective cohort study of personal exposure to magnetic fields during pregnancy and the risk of miscarriage. Epidemiology
12. "High voltage power lines and childhood leukemia: A systematic review and meta-analysis" - Turner et al., Cancer Epidemiology, 2013
13. "High voltage power lines and adverse pregnancy outcomes: A systematic review and meta-analysis" - Hu et al., Environmental Research, 2019
14. "Residential exposure to electric power transmission lines and risk of lymphoproliferative and myeloproliferative disorders: A case-control study" - Feychting et al., International Journal of Cancer, 2003
15. "Occupational exposure to electromagnetic fields and breast cancer in men" - Li et al., American Journal of Industrial Medicine, 2010
16. "Effect of long-term exposure of 2.4 GHz radiofrequency radiation emitted from Wi-Fi equipment on testes functions" - Atasoy et al., Electromagnetic Biology and Medicine, 2013
17. "Childhood brain tumours and exposure to power lines: A pooled analysis of case-control studies in seven countries" - Kroll et al., Journal of Radiological Protection, 2019
18. "Exposure to electromagnetic fields and suicide among electric utility workers: A nested case-control study" - Lee et al., Occupational and Environmental Medicine, 2000

19. "Residential proximity to electricity transmission and distribution equipment and risk of lymphoid and myeloid neoplasms" - McBride et al., Occupational and Environmental Medicine, 2014
20. "Maternal exposure to magnetic fields during pregnancy in relation to the risk of asthma in offspring" - Li et al., Pediatric Allergy and Immunology, 2017
21. "The association between residential exposure to extremely low-frequency magnetic fields and fetal growth in a cohort of pregnant women in California" - Li et al., Environmental Research, 2019

Potential Adverse Effects on Animal Health:

- Specific animal studies have disclosed effects on behavior, reproduction, and growth in certain animal species exposed to EMF (Balmori, 2015).
- <https://www.audubon.org/news/transmission-lines-and-birds>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19603696/>

Plant Growth and Biochemical Responses:

- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S168785072200125X?pes=vor>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19603696/>

Effect on property values:

- <https://archives.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/ref/sfh1-18f.cfm>
- <https://ideas.repec.org/a/jre/issued/v7n31992p3215-330.html>
- https://headwaterseconomics.org/wp-content/uploads/MSTI_PropertyValues.pdf
- https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320173274_A_LITERATURE_SURVEY_AND_ANALYSIS_OF_THE_IMPACT_OF_HIGH-VOLTAGE_OVERHEAD_ELECTRIC_TRANSMISSION_LINES_ON_ADJOINING_PROPERTY_VALUES
- https://www.powerwatch.org.uk/pdfs/sims_dent_urbanstudies_april_2005.pdf

Pros and cons of above ground and underground lines:

- <https://www.indianaconnection.org/overhead-vs-underground-power-lines-2/>
- <https://www.csu.org/Pages/Blog/ProsConsUndergroundLines.aspx>