



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2832		DATE: 3/7/2024	
COMMITTEE: Agriculture Policy			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BEN TRAVLOS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-1400	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI FARM BUREAU		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 701 S. COUNTRY CLUB DR.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CATHERINE VOGELWEID		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Vogelweidc@missouri.edu	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 8:18 PM

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Testimony for House Bill No.2832, Introduced by Representative Haffner March 7, 2024 Catherine M. Vogelweid, DVM PhD Resident of Callaway County, Missouri I support the passage of House Bill 2832 which proposes to broaden the representation on the Public Service Commission to include individuals with experience in Agriculture, Utilities & Finance. In my testimony, I wish to address the following areas in the Mission Statement of the Public Service Commission (PSC):

- We will ensure that Missourians receive safe and reliable utility services at just, reasonable and affordable rates; and
- We will provide an efficient regulatory process that is responsive to all parties, and perform our duties ethically and professionally.

Why Agricultural Experience Must Be Present on the Public Service Commission

Rural America is “ground zero” in the Clean Energy Transition. To achieve the Biden Administration’s goal of supplying our electricity from wind and solar sources by 2030, a staggering amount of rural land will be consumed – over 350,000 square miles for wind and 35,000 square miles for solar.¹ This equates to more than 12% of the land area of the continental United States. To move the electricity from rural America where it will be generated to densely populated cities far away will require the build-out of an additional 240,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, doubling our current amount. That is enough wire to circle the Earth 10 times. Those transmission lines will also be routed through rural America, consuming even more land. Today, Missouri’s agricultural communities are facing an apparently unrestricted build-out of industrial-scale wind and solar power plants. For example, Callaway County, Missouri has approximately 297,000 acres of farmland. Over the past 5 years, we have learned that over 3% of our farmland has already been leased for industrial-scale solar development, with 2/3 of this land being either prime or good cropland. What is happening in Callaway County is not unique; it is happening across rural counties throughout Missouri. What is most disturbing to me is that there does not appear to be any type of long-range planning that would enable efficient placement of renewable power plants & transmission lines. There are insignificant attempts to mitigate the negative impacts on farming communities, and there is no consideration to limit the amount of cropland that will be taken out of production. The only considerations for site selection that I am aware of are that the land be cleared, flat, well-drained, and owned by a farmer who will sign a lease. The agricultural community needs a voice on the PSC.

Why Utilities Experience Must be Represented on the Public Service Commission

The influx of power from renewable sources that are both intermittent and weather-dependent introduces an element of uncertainty about the reliability of our supply of electricity that is unprecedented. In recent years, the incidence of blackouts reported across the United States has been sharply increasing, by as much as 64%. To balance the supply and demand sides of our power supply requires first-hand knowledge of how the grid operates and how the regional transmission organizations interact to ensure that the quantity of electricity that is required in a specific area is always available. The influx of renewable energy, the age of the grid, and increased demand have complicated this delicate balancing act. Our

energy portfolio must remain balanced, and this requires a depth of understanding of the advantages and problems inherent with each supply source of electricity – be it coal, natural gas, nuclear, or renewable wind & solar. Utilities experience is thus critical for the PSC. Why Financial Representation is Important on the Public Safety Commission Someone needs to be looking out for the customer. Electricity is not a commodity, it is a life-line service, every bit as essential to our society as food, water and shelter. Electric utilities are government-approved monopolies – the customer cannot choose which provider they wish to use to supply their power. The PSC is supposed to regulate the rates to protect the consumer. To do this requires financial acuity and an understanding of power markets. At present, electricity prices are on the rise across our Nation. Why? In their report, “Electricity Prices are Soaring: It’s Time to Hold the Energy Transition Accountable”, authors Mitch Rolling and Isaac Orr state the following: “. . . recent reports from Regulatory Research Associates (RRA), a division of S&P Global Commodity Insights, evaluating requests from electric companies to raise their prices (known as rate cases) clearly show that rising electricity prices are largely being driven by spending billions of dollars on wind turbines, solar panels, natural gas plants, and new transmission lines in pursuit of the so-called “energy transition.” Our deep dive into the rate cases found that every single one of the eight companies listed wind and solar investments or the energy transition as one of the primary reasons for raising electricity prices, and multiple companies explicitly cited state mandates for clean energy or GHG reductions to justify the rate increases.” “Despite the fact that wind and solar advocacy groups constantly misrepresent levelized cost of energy (LCOE) values to claim wind and solar are the cheapest forms of electricity generation, there is no way around this point: the energy transition comes with a hefty price tag that will only increase as climate goals become stricter. The rate cases examined clearly label so-called “energy transition” investments as major drivers of rising electricity costs, and as long as we continue to play stupid games with our electric grid, we will continue to win stupid prizes.”

Adding financial expertise to the PSC will enable the PSC to more effectively balance the profit desires of utility providers against the needs of customers to pay equitable rates. Conclusions It is important that legislators understand that the energy transition that depends upon the massive build-out of wind and solar facilities is placing an unfair and inequitable burden squarely on rural Missourians. For all the hype about a “fair and equitable” energy transition, a new marginalized society group is being created -- the non-leasing agricultural land owner who chooses to preserve the integrity of their land. I belong to that group. In the name of saving the Earth’s climate from carbon dioxide emissions, we are proceeding to destroy our precious farmland and its dependent communities. The current composition of the PSC does not enable responsive representation for all Missourians. Thank you. Catherine M. Vogelweid, DVM PhD Vogelweidc@missouri.edu Reference: 1 Not in Our Backyard: Rural America is Fighting Back Against Large Scale Renewable Energy Projects, Robert Bryce, April 2021.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLES GREG CRAWFORD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: g.crawford83@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 8:54 AM	

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Thank you committee members for allowing me to share my story and I am in full support of HB2832 which expands the PSC members to 7 and 2 members have to be engaged in farming. I'm Charles Greg Crawford, our family has been farming for 4 generations spanning over nearly 100 yrs. The Federal Government is pushing and funding solar and wind projects in the rural heartland of America like we have never experienced in modern history which is removing the most valuable productive land that has fed this Nation and helped sustain the rural communities and counties. These projects are going to result in more than ever transmission line application filings to cross even more productive farmland. The way the current PSC is constructed the entire state is not represented. The 2 large metro areas, St Louis and Kansas City have all the members/representation. There are no members that have the best interest of rural communities or agricultural landowners. The citizens in the entire state need's representation. A majority of the large transmission lines don't cross metro areas, but rather crosses the most productive farmlands, so there is a need for some members to have the working knowledge and understanding of the potential detrimental impacts to the financial livelihood of agricultural producers and landowners with these types of projects. We have the Thomas Hill transmission line that runs across one of our farms which is much smaller and far less environmentally intrusive than the proposed GBE & Tiger Connector transmission lines. So I can speak from firsthand experience. The construction process causes extreme compaction of the soil that takes years to restore which results in a reduction in yields, lower production, and economic loss. The additional fuel and labor cost of maneuvering around the bases adds up because these are in place forever. In fact, we eventually stopped row cropping a section and put it in pasture as a result of this transmission line. The transmission lines with their large bases impact the value of farms because it's more costly to build irrigation pivots and also there is loss of productive ground as well. The use of airplanes and helicopters to top-dress fertilizer, insecticide, herbicide, and fungicide are essential in today's farming. This option is not possible due to safety concerns of the lines. The danger would be even greater if the low flying crafts' GPS signal failed or was interrupted. Farming today relies completely on advanced technology systems that include autosteer, field mapping, variable rate applications, plant population application and harvesting data. The use of these systems are from time you begin tilling the ground, to planting, to spraying, to fertilizing, and to harvesting. The agriculture industry is reliant on a dependable GPS signal, but these lines do affect and interrupt GPS connectivity. These types of projects negatively affect the landowners/farmers financially which results in an economic loss to these rural communities and counties. Row crop farming generates approximately 1 million dollars gross revenue per 1,000 acres. Finally, there seems to be an unsettling pattern that former PSC members immediately take jobs as lobbyists with companies that are in the process of filing PSC applications. There needs to be some limitations put in place, you're a colleague one day and outside lobbyists the next which can have unbeknownst influence. Let me leave

you with this: For the members who live in towns or cities, how would you like an outside source to come to your home/property and build a 10x10 shed; placing it anywhere it chooses (front yard); you cannot use it but someone in another state or in a rural community gets the benefit of it and it is there forever. This example wouldn't affect your livelihood like the farmers, but doesn't it make sense that the agricultural producers need representation when the majority of transmission lines cross rural Missouri.HB2832 is very important and needs your support. Thank you for your time.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JACOB KNAEBEL		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-4181	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 3118 EMERALD LANE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KYLE CARROLL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kyle.i.carroll@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2024 8:38 PM
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I support this bill and the modifications it makes tot he make up of the PSC.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: LIZ HENDERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-3819
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 734 S. COUNTRY CLUB DR,		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: lhenderson@mosoy.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2024 7:50 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA STEMME		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: pstemme56@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2024 8:49 PM	

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My husband and I are in favor of this bill. I "Motioned to Intervene" in the Grain Belt Express Tiger Connection hearing in attempt to protect our property rights. We have spent thousands of dollars and retained 3 different attorneys. The PSC does not seem to care what hardships the transmission line will cause hundreds of landowners across Missouri. There are 187 staff experts employed at the PSC (total payroll is 13.7 million dollars) and yet all three times the staff recommended the Commissioners deny giving the "Convenience and Necessity" to Invenergy Transmission LLC/ GBE. And yet, the Commissioners ignored their recommendation and approved request anyway. Some people have been fighting this for 10 years or more. All the commissioners come from the city and have no understanding of the daily operation of running a grain farm or a ranch. We desparately need representation. I also do not believe the Governor should be chosing the commissioners. The PSC is in desparate need of an overhaul. I witnessed two Commissioners sleeping during important testimony at our Evienduary Hearing last June. None of the Commissioners were in attendance over 50% of the time. If they had a job outside of the government; at a corporation they would lose their job. Their behavior was disgraceful and very unprofessional. Please take the steps to fix this very serious problem.grainrain belt



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ROGER FISCHER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-642-0737	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CALLAWAY COUNTY		TITLE: WESTERN DISTRICT COMMISSIONER	
ADDRESS: 10 EAST 5TH STREET			
CITY: FULTON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65251
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHANNON COOPER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-890-1432	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATTLEMENS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 208 MADISON STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN BURNS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: susanburns@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 5:25 PM

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I plan to testify and will bring a copy of my testimony for the committee.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GOODMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: docgoodma@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/5/2024 11:19 AM

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Farmers must have representation on this commission which makes decisions so directly affecting farmers and all rural people.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2024 12:12 AM
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I am opposed to this Bill. I agree by expanding the Commission to Nine (9) Members Elected at a Public Election with Eight (8) Members being Elected in each of the State's Congressional Districts and the Ninth (9th) Member to be Elected At-Large State-Wide. This would provide Missourians with a Fair, Responsible, Accountable and Transparent Public Service Commission!



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENT STEWART		PHONE NUMBER: 573-644-3655	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 5325 S. BEARFIELD ROAD			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2024 7:50 PM

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I urge you to oppose HB2832 (Haffner), which change the membership of the Public Service Commission (PSC), which regulates investor-owned electric, natural gas, steam, telephone, water and sewer companies operating in Missouri. While I do not oppose reform of the PSC, this is not the way to do it. HB2832 propose that the PSC shall consist of seven members, instead of five members, provided that at least two members shall be actively engaged in production agriculture. If we are to change the makeup of the PSC to guarantee representation of different interests on the committee, this representation should go beyond solely adding agricultural interests. For example, to name two potential additional categories, the PSC could include an environmental scientist and a consumer interest advocate. The proposed change has a fiscal note of over \$2 million per a year. This additional cost would ultimately be paid by Missouri residential and commercial utility customers. The PSC is funded through assessments on utility companies that are passed on to consumers through rates so Missourians would have to bear such a cost while only some Missourians receive increased representation. The regulation of essential services like electric, natural gas, and water demands thoughtful, consistent oversight to safeguard consumer interests, promote infrastructure investment, and maintain reliable service.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: LARRY PLEUS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-821-2999	
REPRESENTING: SPIRE MISSOURI NATURAL GAS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 101 MADISON STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL BERG		PHONE NUMBER: 314-644-1011	
REPRESENTING: SIERRA CLUB MISSOURI CHAPTER		TITLE: SIERRA CLUB MISSOURI CHAPTER POLITICAL DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 432010			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63143
EMAIL: Michael.Berg@sierraclub.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2024 10:54 AM	
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The Sierra Club opposes House Bill 2832. We do not oppose the reforming of the Public Service Commission, but we oppose this reform. If being a PSC commissioner is going to become explicitly dependent upon representing different interests, it is not right for agricultural interests to be specifically represented while other important interests (such as consumer and environmental interests) are not given specific representation



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2024 7:49 PM
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