



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HB 2169 | | DATE: 4/1/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Rural Issues | | |
| TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES | | |
| WITNESS NAME | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ALAYNA FORCK | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-4181 |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: 3118 EMERALD LANE | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 65109 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2026 12:00 AM |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. A.C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY | | TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE | |
| ADDRESS: PO BOX 1535 | | | |
| CITY: O'FALLON | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 63366 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2026 12:00 AM | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: BEN TRAVLOS | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-3819 | |
| REPRESENTING: MISSOURI SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: 734 S. COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE | | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65109 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2026 12:00 AM | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MARK FIEGENBAUM | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-690-8580 | |
| REPRESENTING: MISSOURI FARM BUREAU | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: 701 S COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE | | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65102 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2026 12:00 AM | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ELYSE DIANNE SCHAEFFER | | PHONE NUMBER: 314-246-0178 | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVE SUITE 100, ST. LOUIS, MO 63130 | | | |
| CITY: ST. LOUIS | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 63130 |
| EMAIL: eschaeffer@moenvironment.org | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2026 11:27 AM | |
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April 1, 2026

Dear Chairman Van Schoiack and Members of the Committee,

Missouri Coalition for the Environment is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. House Bill 2169 prohibits the use of eminent domain for the production of certain forms of energy. This bill puts the future of our grid's growth, reliability, and efficiency in the hands of a few individuals. While framed as a protection of property rights, this bill creates a discriminatory standard by singling out renewable energy projects while continuing to allow eminent domain for other forms of energy infrastructure, including oil, gas, and nuclear electric utilities. If Missouri recognizes that electricity infrastructure serves a public purpose, that standard should be applied consistently, especially when renewable energy positively affects communities and the environment in ways other sources of energy cannot. As such, we ask the Committee to vote "no" on HB 2169.

If passed, HB 2169 would make solar and wind projects 100% dependent on voluntary contracts. This means one single land owner could determine whether an electric company uses the most efficient path for transmission or uses even more of Missouri's farmland in order to accomplish the same project. The ability of our state's grid to grow, and to do so in the most efficient and therefore reliable path possible, should be in the hands of industry experts, not individual land owners. Further, this bill establishes a discriminatory standard. Under HB 2169, only certain forms of energy projects are eligible for eminent domain. If this tool is taken away for renewable energy, it should also be eliminated for nuclear, gas, and coal based projects.

Renewable energy sources should be encouraged because they reduce the myriad environmental impacts of fossil fuel based power production and provide significant economic benefits to Missouri. Solar in particular saw 17% job growth from 2019-2024, representing over 3,000 jobs statewide [1]. Solar energy is cheaper, safer, and faster to deploy than any other form of energy available on the market today [2], meaning every industry that relies on electricity can grow faster and for less money using solar power.

Investment in renewable energy also protects the health of Missourians. Continued reliance on fossil fuels, including "natural" or methane gas and coal, have well-documented health consequences. Ameren's continuous operation of the Labadie coal plant alone is responsible for the deaths of nearly

200 Missourians a year [3]. Burning fossil fuels releases ozone into the atmosphere, which is a significant contributor to asthma [4]. St. Louis suffered from the second-most asthma deaths of any city in the country last year. Failing to promote clean energy production, and therefore keeping dangerous fossil fuel sources online, is thus a substantial public health risk.

Missouri is already competing for clean energy investment. Policies that create additional barriers for renewable generation risk slowing grid modernization and undermining long-term energy affordability for businesses and residents alike. If the state maintains eminent domain authority for fossil fuel and transmission infrastructure, it should not selectively restrict it for wind and solar generation. For these reasons, we urge the committee to vote “no” on HB 2169.

Sincerely,

**Elyse Dianne Schaeffer
Policy Coordinator
314-246-0178**



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2026 9:40 PM | |

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I submit this testimony in strong opposition to HB 2196. This bill imposes new and harmful restrictions on the use of eminent domain for renewable energy development, specifically prohibiting its use for the construction of wind and solar generation facilities.

This bill prohibits the use of eminent domain for the production of wind and solar. Our state desperately needs to increase our renewable energy production to decrease our dependency on fossil fuels and to limit the state’s contribution to climate change. Missouri faces real and escalating threats from a warming climate, including more severe storms, flooding, and extreme heat. Expanding our renewable energy capacity is not just an environmental goal; it is a necessity for our state’s long-term resilience and economic stability.

Putting further limitations on the ways in which the government can develop wind and solar conflicts with these important needs of the state. While we must always respect private property rights, eminent domain has long been a carefully regulated tool used to build essential infrastructure that serves the public good, including roads, pipelines, and traditional power lines. By singling out wind and solar for this prohibition, the bill arbitrarily handicaps the very industries best positioned to lead our energy transition. It creates a double standard that favors fossil fuel infrastructure while erecting new barriers to clean energy.

The bill’s narrow exception for transmission lines does not remedy this harm. It allows for the infrastructure needed to carry renewable energy but prohibits the acquisition of sites for the generation facilities themselves. This creates a fragmented and inefficient approach that will drive up costs, delay projects, and ultimately keep Missouri locked into an outdated energy system.

Missourians deserve an energy future that is clean, affordable, and secure. This bill moves us in the opposite direction by undermining the tools we need to build that future. I urge you to prioritize the health of our communities and the stability of our climate. Please vote “no” on HB 2196.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2026 9:40 PM |

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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
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HB 2169 modifies provisions relating to eminent domain for utility purposes, raising significant constitutional concerns regarding property rights, the scope of “public use,” and the expansion of condemnation authority through indirect mechanisms.

While the bill appears to restrict the use of eminent domain for certain energy generation facilities, it simultaneously preserves and extends condemnation authority for the infrastructure necessary to collect, transmit, and deliver energy generated by those same facilities. This creates a structural workaround in which property may still be taken for projects that the statute nominally excludes, raising concerns regarding the integrity of the limitation itself.

By authorizing condemnation for transmission lines, substations, and related infrastructure tied to otherwise excluded facilities, HB 2169 effectively enables the functional equivalent of condemning land for those projects, without requiring the same level of scrutiny or justification. This raises constitutional concerns under both the Takings Clause and established interpretations of “public use,” where indirect pathways are used to accomplish outcomes that are restricted in direct form.

Additionally, the bill permits condemnation where property is needed to support broader energy delivery systems, even when such systems may serve regional or multi-state markets rather than clearly defined local public use. This raises concerns regarding whether the exercise of eminent domain remains sufficiently tied to a direct and primary benefit to the public within the state.

The inclusion of provisions allowing condemnation across existing utility property, so long as it does not “materially impair” current use, further introduces ambiguity and potential conflict between competing entities. The lack of precise standards governing what constitutes “material impairment” creates a framework in which property rights and operational control may be subject to dispute and reinterpretation, increasing the likelihood of inconsistent application and litigation.

Moreover, the bill maintains broad authority for corporations to initiate condemnation proceedings where agreement on compensation cannot be reached, without introducing additional safeguards or heightened standards for necessity. This raises ongoing concerns regarding the imbalance of power between private entities exercising delegated condemnation authority and individual property owners.

Bottom line:

HB 2169 creates a framework in which eminent domain authority may be exercised indirectly and with expanded flexibility, despite appearing to impose targeted limitations.

The General Assembly is hereby placed on notice that enactment of this provision may give rise to constitutional concerns, including issues related to the Takings Clause, the definition of public use, and the potential for indirect circumvention of statutory restrictions on condemnation authority.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: TYLER TRAVERS | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: RENEW MISSOURI | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: COLUMBIA | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65203 |
| EMAIL: tyler@renewmo.org | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2026 4:21 PM |
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Eminent domain for solar is already illegal (RSMo 442.012)



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: CRAIG REDMON | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ZACH POLLOCK | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-645-3210 | |
| REPRESENTING: AMEREN | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: 125 E. HIGH ST., STE. 200 | | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65101 |
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