

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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### **Clean Line Energy Statement on Filing for Rehearing with the Missouri PSC**

Clean Line Energy (Clean Line) is committed to moving the Grain Belt Express project forward and believes the project is too important to Missouri, Illinois and our nation's energy future not to pursue. Today, Clean Line filed an application for rehearing of the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) order of July 1, 2015, which denied by a 3-to-2 vote Clean Line's request to build, own and operate the Grain Belt Express Clean Line transmission project.

Clean Line believes the PSC majority erred in failing to recognize the substantial, credible and often uncontroverted evidence of the clear public benefits that the Grain Belt Express project will bring to Missouri. The Grain Belt Express will deliver enough low-cost renewable wind energy to power 200,000 Missouri homes each year, create thousands of manufacturing and construction jobs, and generate millions of dollars in tax revenue to benefit schools and other community services. Missouri manufacturers and businesses are ready to build the Grain Belt Express project that will boost Missouri's economy while delivering low-cost electricity to the state.

The order also discriminates against interstate commerce, denying Clean Line the ability to move wind energy from western Kansas to Missouri and other states that need low-cost renewable energy. If the PSC majority's limited view of public benefits had prevailed elsewhere in our nation, other critical infrastructure essential to the public welfare, such as railroads, highways and pipelines, would have never been constructed.

In Clean Line's application for rehearing, the following points were addressed:

- The order wrongly criticizes Clean Line for failing to participate in a regional transmission planning process that does not exist for an inter-regional, participant funded transmission project like the Grain Belt Express.
- The order fails to recognize the substantial evidence presented that demonstrates wind energy delivered by the project from western Kansas is the least-cost option to provide new renewable energy to Missouri.
- The order fails to recognize that Missouri utilities are unable to meet all of their renewable energy procurement obligations because existing options are too expensive under the rate cap of Missouri's Renewable Energy Standard.
- The order fails to recognize the credible evidence presented that the project will result in lower costs and less congestion in Missouri.
- The order fails to recognize that the participant funded nature of the project ensures that costs are not broadly socialized and that no Missouri utility will incur any cost related to the project

unless the utility determines that the benefits of purchasing transmission service from Clean Line outweigh the costs.

- The order's exclusive focus on only certain interests within Missouri fails to consider the substantial and uncontroverted evidence of the benefits of the project to other Missouri interests, the broader Midwest region and the United States as a whole. The project helps many states meet their renewable energy targets, results in hundreds of millions of dollars in lower energy costs, and provides a pathway to market for thousands of megawatts of wind energy generators in western Kansas.
- The order's narrow view of Missouri's public interest violates the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution and hinders the ability of interstate, inter-regional projects like the Grain Belt Express to bring low cost clean energy to where it is needed.

Clean Line takes landowner rights very seriously and values one-on-one conversations with landowners to answer questions and address their concerns. As Clean Line moves forward, it will continue its commitment to listen to and work with Missouri leaders, including the PSC and other government officials, and most importantly the people of Missouri.

Grain Belt Express is a pro-jobs, pro-consumer, pro-environment project that will provide significant benefits to Missouri, the Midwest and the entire nation.

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**About Clean Line Energy Partners:**

Clean Line's mission is to connect abundant, renewable energy resources to areas that have a high demand for low-cost, clean energy. Clean Line is developing a series of transmission projects to move renewable energy to market. For more information please visit [www.CleanLineEnergy.com](http://www.CleanLineEnergy.com).