

# Citing new landowner protections and savings to consumers, Gov. Nixon says Grain Belt Express Clean Line is a good deal for Missouri

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June 29, 2016

## One of the largest clean-energy projects under development in the United States will invest \$500 million in Missouri, support 1,500 jobs

Jefferson City, MO - **Gov. Jay Nixon** today announced his support for the **Grain Belt Express Clean Line**, a \$500 million investment that will support an estimated 1,500 Missouri jobs during construction and provide 500 megawatts of low-cost, clean power to Missouri. At Gov. Nixon's request, Clean Line Energy has committed to a new set of industry-leading landowner protections that would be the first of its kind for a Missouri infrastructure project. The company estimates that it will pay more than \$32 million to landowners who host the transmission line on their property.

"With these new protections for landowners and millions of dollars in savings for consumers, the Grain Belt Express Clean Line is a good deal for Missouri," said **Gov. Nixon**. "In addition to reducing energy costs, this \$500 million construction project will also boost our economy and create good-paying jobs. I appreciate Clean Line for answering my call for these enhanced landowner protections and for ensuring the transmission line is built in a way that creates jobs and saves money for Missourians."

The Grain Belt Express is an overhead power line that will deliver enough low-cost wind energy to Missouri to power 200,000 homes annually. Earlier this month, a group of 67 Missouri municipal utilities agreed to purchase long-term transmission service on the Grain Belt Express. The agreement is expected to save municipal ratepayers at least \$10 million annually because it will replace more costly power contracts, according to an analysis performed by the Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission.

Gov. Nixon asked that the Grain Belt Express institute a series of additional landowner protections, which build upon Clean Line's current commitments. These new requirements create the strongest set of landowner protections to date required of any Missouri infrastructure project. Specifically, Clean Line has agreed to:

- Offer the option of binding arbitration to resolve any compensation disputes.
- Establish a Missouri Agriculture Protocol. Clean Line will follow strict guidelines to avoid, minimize and mitigate any impacts to agricultural fields or activities. The Missouri Agriculture Protocol should implement utility best practices and establishes an Agriculture Inspector to monitor construction activities. The Agriculture Inspector has the power to immediately stop construction when best practices are not being followed or when contractors are in violation of any negotiated obligation with landowners.
- Establishment of a fund to decommission the project when it is determined to be near the end of its useful life.
- Have a local firm update land value assessments. In the event land values have decreased since the last assessment because of commodity prices or any other reason, the Grain Belt Express will honor the higher of the values. Also, compensation will not be reduced after an Order has been issued approving the project by the Missouri Public Service Commission.

The Grain Belt Express will produce an estimated more than \$7 million in property tax revenue starting in year one of the transmission line's operation. The additional property tax revenue will benefit schools, as well as ambulance districts, fire districts and others located near the route in northern Missouri. Additionally, an analysis by the Missouri Economic Research & Information Center (MERIC) estimates that the Grain Belt Express will support 1,500 jobs in Missouri during the construction.

The Grain Belt Express will utilize Missouri-based labor and manufacturing. Kansas City-based PAR Electric will be the construction contractor for the project and will employ union workers to construct the Grain Belt Express. Hubbell Power Systems in Centralia, ABB in St. Louis and General Cable in Sedalia will manufacture components for the Grain Belt Express.

Missouri is the last of four states where approval is needed for the Grain Belt Express; regulatory commissions in Kansas, Illinois and Indiana have approved the project.