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### **ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT TO HEAR CASE ON NORTHERN ILLINOIS' LARGEST CLEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

#### **PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN ILLINOIS' ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE IS IN QUESTION**

CHICAGO, IL (November 23, 2016) – The Illinois Supreme Court will decide the fate of northern Illinois' largest clean energy infrastructure project. The Rock Island Clean Line would bring low-cost clean energy, hundreds of high quality jobs, and revenue for local communities to the state.

Unanimously approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission in 2014, Rock Island Clean Line's application to build an electric transmission line in Illinois was blocked by an appellate court decision over the summer. Today, the Illinois Supreme Court decided to review that decision.

"Building infrastructure in our country is not a job for the faint of heart," stated Hans Detweiler, Vice President of Clean Line Energy. "We are encouraged that the Illinois Supreme Court decided to take up the case, and we are hopeful that the court will recognize that privately funded infrastructure projects, like the Rock Island Clean Line, clearly serve a public purpose by creating jobs in the state and saving consumers hundreds of millions of dollars in energy costs."

The Rock Island Clean Line, which is proposed to ship low-cost wind energy from Iowa to consumers in Illinois, is backed by labor, consumer and environmental groups.

"Chicago building owners support energy infrastructure projects like the Rock Island Clean Line that are self-funded rather than relying on utility ratepayers to bear the costs and risks," said Michael Cornicelli, Executive Vice President of the Building Owners and Managers Association of Chicago. "The Illinois Supreme Court is appropriately giving another hearing to this important project that was unanimously approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission."

Based on a typical schedule, the Illinois Supreme Court could render its decision as early as May 2017.

#### **Additional voices:**

- John Penn, Midwest Region Vice President of the **Laborers International Union of North America**, said, "It is getting hard to build major new infrastructure projects in America. I am glad that the Illinois Supreme Court decided to take the case and am hopeful that they will put workers in Illinois back to work."
- John Moore, Director of the Sustainable FERC Project at the **Natural Resources Defense Council**, said "We are pleased that the Supreme Court has agreed to hear this case. If left in place, the adverse appellate court ruling would restrict Illinois' and the Midwest's access to zero-carbon, low-cost wind and other renewable energy resources and slow our transition to a cleaner energy future."
- David Kolata, Executive Director of **the Citizens Utility Board**, said, "New carbon-free power supplies are a critical leg of the stool for keeping electricity prices affordable going forward. These types of projects could be good news for consumers, and we believe the Illinois Supreme Court has made the right call to review the appeals court decision."
- Tom Kiernan, Chief Executive Officer of the **American Wind Energy Association**, said, "New transmission infrastructure is vital to the national need for more wind energy development and Illinois is at the nation's infrastructure crossroads. Keeping our states' borders open allows for more low-cost renewable energy's consumer savings to be delivered to more American homes and businesses. We are pleased the Illinois Supreme Court has decided to take up the appeal."
- Jack Darin, Director of the **Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter**, said, "This project will deliver pollution-free power to Illinois homes and businesses, and create good jobs in clean energy technologies."

To learn more about the Rock Island Clean Line, please visit [www.rockislandcleanline.com](http://www.rockislandcleanline.com).

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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 clean, reliable 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).