

HB 2418 with HCA 1 -- EMINENT DOMAIN POWER OF UTILITIES

SPONSOR: Remole

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Utility Infrastructure by a vote of 7 to 4.

This bill prohibits electric utilities from exercising the power of eminent domain if the project is:

- 1) Proposed and built outside a regulated regional transmission planning process;
- 2) Not eligible for recovery of cost under a regional transmission operator or independent system operator tariff for transmission service it provides;
- 3) Constructed entirely with private funds and the users of the line pay for the transmission line; or
- 4) Primarily involves construction of a high-voltage direct current transmission line.

The bill does not apply to a transmission line, wire, or cable that primarily provides electricity through alternating current and is used by rate regulated electric utilities, municipal electric utilities, or rural cooperatives, or electric transmission owners to provide electric service, for compensation, to the public or certain entities specified in the bill.

HCA #1: This amendment establishes an expiration date of August 28, 2026.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the state should have control over eminent domain and siting requirements. The Public Service Commission should maintain its decision denying the construction of major transmission lines that do not provide power to Missouri consumers.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Remole; Paul Agathan, Missouri Landowners Alliance; Loren V. Sprouse; Wiley Hibbard; Russell Pisciotta, Block Grain Belt Express - Mo; Missouri Farm Bureau; Ron Staggs; John. S Christopher; Sherry Christopher; Marilyn O'Bannon; Marvin Daniels; David Carpenter; Kent Dye; Debbie Hodges; Denise Power; John C. Beaman; Mart Staggs; Sheryl P. Needham; Dale Morgan; and Lois Stuart.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that owners are fairly compensated for any property used in the construction of

transmission lines and that such lines are essential to promote clean energy in lieu of coal plant power. Electricity transmission may result in lower cost and more efficient power. The construction and maintenance of transmission lines creates jobs in Missouri.

Testifying against the bill were Michael Skelly, Clean Line Energy; Wayne Wilcox; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Matt Langley, Infinity Renewables; American Wind Energy Association; Donna R. Inglis; Carolyn Amparan, Sierra Club of Missouri; Andrea Rice; Bruce Inglis; and Larry Pollard.