

Chairman Adam Smith and committee members,

RE: House Bill 2136

Hearing date: February 9, 2023 / 3:30 p.m.

Thank you for taking the time to allow me to speak with all of you.

Is everyone familiar with eminent domain and how the process works?

Do you know the whole process to get your land taken from you by eminent domain? When you are subject to an eminent domain action, Big business lets you know right away that they can and WILL take your land and that they have the lawyers to sue you to get it, if you do not agree to their terms.

Eminent domain can affect anyone in Kansas. It might be you or your kids or grandkids, taking land handed down from generation to generation, simply GONE!

Eminent domain is not necessarily a bad thing. Without eminent domain by government entities, we would not have roads, electric lines powering our homes, sewer service and other public amenities.

However, the use of eminent domain by a private, for-profit company, that sells and sends wind generated electricity to the east coast with no benefit to our state and it's residents is another issue, in my opinion. However, what is DONE IS DONE and now we, the landowners in Kansas must live with the consequences.

The bad part about eminent domain on this or any other project is after the state makes you sell you land or home or farm ground, (which you didn't want to sell in the first place) they TAX you on the proceeds. Do you want them to take your land, make you sell it at a price they set, then TAX you on that money? It's not right.

1. They take your land
2. You have to pay taxes on the money they pay you.
3. The private, for-profit company doesn't have to pay taxes on the line for ten years or more because they get an abatement. You however, get to start paying taxes right away and continue to pay year after year if you take the annual distribution option or pay at an even higher rate if you take the one-time payment, fearing big business sell out or bankruptcy in their future which might jeopardize your payments.
4. They tear up the fields and the roads and bridges going to them.
5. We live in the best country in the world and I believe I live in the best state in this country. However, sometimes our laws need to be fixed and this is one of those times.
6. Everyone's situation is different.
7. This can happen to anyone. It might happen to you next.

Thank you again for your time and attention. Thank you for your consideration of this matter and listening to my thoughts and concerns. Special thanks to Representative John Eplee who has listened to my concerns and helped me take the steps that brought me here to testify before you today. I would be glad to try to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Larry Rohrer  
865 Sheridan Road  
Wathena, Kansas 66090  
Cell phone 816-752-4342  
Email -rohrerswingsandwebs@yahoo.com