

RE:

Petition for Rulemaking – Minn. R. ch. 7849 and 7850

Gopher-Badger/Maribell 765kV Transmission Line - CN-25-121

As a landowner in Houston County, I strongly support the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission granting the petition for rule-making regarding high-voltage transmission lines, specifically in this case, the Gopher to Badger Link 765/161 KV line.

With little to no rules in place it creates a significant regulatory gap that leaves landowners and communities such as ours with dramatically insufficient oversight over projects like these that will have far-reaching negative impacts. MISO and the power companies involved should not have unrestricted freedom or authority to do as they please just because they have the money, power, and resources to do so.

As previously outlined in the numerous public comments, the proposed project is unprecedented in both scale and its potential effects on human health, environment, property values, and local economies. Without additional rules there is little to no accountability or assurances that the concerns of affected landowners and communities will be meaningfully addressed. After all, we are indeed the ones who will truly be taking on the real costs of this project not only as ratepayers, but also the costs associated with this project negatively impacting our homes and communities.

Granting this petition is not an obstruction to necessary infrastructure, but provides the much needed framework for proper oversight and fairness. It is necessary to ensure transparency, equitable treatment of landowners who will be directly affected and allows thoughtful consideration of health, environmental, and community impacts.

I urge the PUC to act in favor of the petition and establish rules that provide clear standards, safeguards, and protections for all Minnesotans affected by these projects.

Respectfully,

David Wray

Caledonia, MN