

My name is Sister Lillian Long. I am testifying on my own behalf as someone who lives on a farm within the proposed 'energy corridor'. I am submitting testimony opposed to House Bill 1258.

I have been reviewing the testimony submitted to the House Energy and Natural Resources and want to let you know of what is happening on the ground in our community.

Testimony from Xcel Energy stated that HB 1258 would "ensure the state has the authority to enable development of critical electricity transmission infrastructure. Transmission lines are a vital link to deliver electricity over long distances from power sources to transmission substations closer to homes and businesses. A strong transmission system ensures reliable and affordable service. Transmission expansion is critical to ensuring North Dakota's energy future" then stating "the JETx Project is important to help ensure electric reliability and increase resiliency. The JETx Project will provide a new transmission line to serve the Jamestown area that will not only offer additional redundancy but also increase system capability to avoid a similar circumstance in the future extreme weather events" (referring to an ice storm outage in 2023).

IN REALITY, the JETx Project is a 345 Kilovolt power line which my internet research said can transmit 400-500 Megawatts (.4-.5 GW). The Ottertail Power representative said, at a township meeting, that JETx can actually transmit 1800 Megawatts (1.8 GW). Even if the JETx line COULD transmit the 1.8 GW the Ottertail Power representative said, that is STILL not as much energy as the 2 GW the Ellendale Applied Digital says they will be using (applieddigital.com). They also have a Data Center in Jamestown and we are hearing a proposal for yet another one between Jamestown and Ellendale. Thus, JETx is NOT planned to strengthen the energy grid as they are telling us, but is actually being constructed to provide energy to investor owned Data Centers. AND, in addition to not being constructed to strengthen our energy grid for the whole community, we are now learning that these Data Centers are going to need MORE than the electricity proposed to be carried by JETx. Now we are learning that there are plans to turn our whole community into an energy producing corridor with wind towers, solar panels, transmission substations and battery storage.

So, you can imagine why the land owners in our community are so outraged at HB 1258. HB 1258 provides that a state permit from the Public Service Commission for the construction of an electric transmission facility within a designated corridor supersedes and preempts local land use or zoning regulations. WE, WHO LIVE HERE, should have the say over the future our community. As you can see by my above testimony, we have reason to want to retain that local control and prevent our community from becoming an energy corridor full of wind towers and solar panels for the investor owned Data Centers.

I am not opposed to increased infrastructure FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY. But I am so opposed to destroying our whole community for the sake of powering investor owned Data Centers.

For your further information: Ottertail testimony by Jason Weiers said they held open houses since 2023 and Right-of way agents have obtained approximately 65% of the land owners land rights to sign necessary right-of-ways. The information provided to land owners was deceptive in that it did not include the information that this is just the first step and that the expectation is NOT really to strengthen the energy grid for the whole community but to supply energy to those investor owned data centers! Many of those land owners, now after learning more information, are wishing they could rescind those rights they signed over without all of the information that was withheld from them.

I appreciate your attention to this concern and ask that you vote No on HB1258. The changes to century code being proposed are totally wrong for North Dakotans.

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