

March 20, 2025

Dawn Shepard
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New Salem, ND 58563

RE: VOTE NO on HB 1258

Chairman and Members of the Energy & Natural Resources Committee;

Here we go again...the State of North Dakota attempting to take more local control away from the citizens of North Dakota in order to help big corporations make larger profits.

What you should be doing is protecting the health and safety of the citizens of the great state of North Dakota.

I urge you all to DO THE RIGHT THING and vote NO on HB 1258.

First of all, taking away setback distance decisions from local authorities for dangerous CO2 pipelines was wrong. A short 500 foot setback for anything doesn't even have a justification for it.

Even hunters are required more distance away from homes for reasons of safety for the residents. CO2 pipelines and electrical transmission should be longer distances than even that for reasons of safety for the homeowners/residents of that home.

Having a state "law" of any lump sum setback distance for anything is wrong. Situations vary. Neighborhoods vary. Numbers of residents in an area vary. Development needs and desires in a community vary. Land use codes written and agreed upon amongst the boards and the residents vary.

What doesn't vary is the fact that all government levels should be putting the health and safety of the public first.

What doesn't vary are the resident's legal rights to protect their lives, their families' lives, and their property from dangers and health risks of transmission lines (and CO2 pipelines!).

Local authorities work with them to do just that. They do that through local meetings, discussions, research, compromises, and local land use standards.

The state doesn't do that. It just looks to the quickest easiest way for another large company to make more profits. Their permitting of the CO2 pipeline right through residential areas has proven that.

In doing so in both situations, and in taking away the right to determine setback distances from the local authorities - city, county, township - and setting a "one size fits all" setback distance for pipelines and transmission lines, the state is violating the rights of home owners to defend and protect their property, their lives, their health, and that of their families.

You don't think transmission lines are dangerous?

The following is from Safe Space Protection Resources:

<https://www.safespaceprotection.com/news-and-info/exposure-to-power-lines-linked-to-cancer/>

Health Risks - Power Line Studies

Facts About Power Lines

High voltage transmission lines (those towering metal power lines you often see usually along highways and across rural landscapes.

- Use high voltage direct current (HVDC) to transmit large amounts of power from the generating station over long distances
- Voltage varies from 138kV to 765kV
- Radiate powerful electromagnetic fields (EMFs)
- Linked to diseases in animals and humans
- There is growing speculation that the values of homes near major power lines will soon begin to decrease because of this threat

Transmission substations, (which often look like a fenced-in thicket of metal structures. Maybe you see one near your home, school or office.):

- Contain circuit breakers, switches and transformers
- Decrease the voltage coming from high voltage transmission lines
- Connect to local, lower voltage distribution lines.
- Reroute power to lines that serve local markets
- Suspected cause of cancer clusters for nearby residents

Lower voltage distribution lines, (or local power poles, which are everywhere):

- Are smaller than the huge high voltage lines
- More likely to be seen in residential areas
- Sometimes buried
- Risk varies with strength of voltage

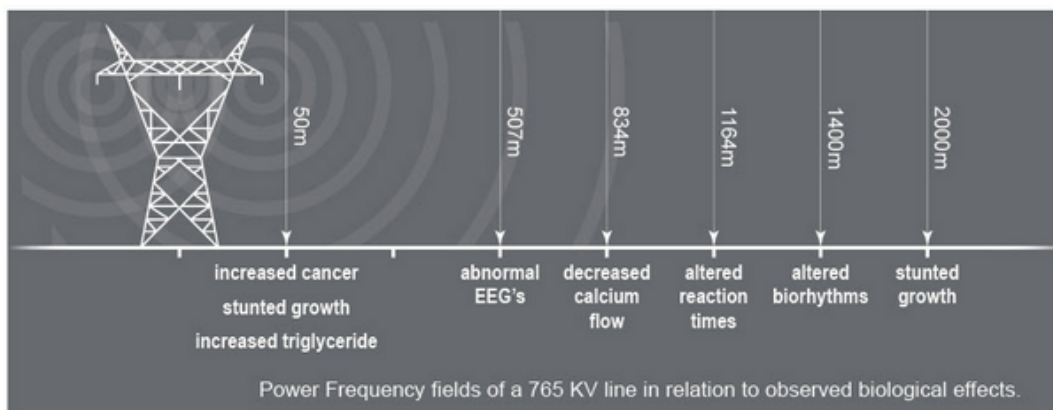
Transformers, (those barrel-like metal trashcans mounted on power poles are EMF factories.):

- Reduces the voltage to the 120-/240 current needed by the nearby homes
- The typical power line feeding the transformer is carrying 4000 to 13,000 volts
- Creates a strong field extending up to a 1/4 of a mile
- The strength of this field decreases significantly with distance (the further away you are the better, even if you are still within a quarter mile)
- Health risk depends on strength of incoming power line

Buried lines and transformers (Recognizable by a metal box located on the ground near the street.):

- Some people contend that burying power lines can mitigate EMF dangers.
- Other experts note that while burying power lines will shield the electric component of the electromagnetic field (EMF), the magnetic component can still pass through the earth—and walls and human or animal bodies.

Research on Power Lines and Health



Living Next To Power Lines Increases The Risk Of Cancer

After hundreds of international studies, the evidence linking EMFs to cancers and other health problems is loud and clear. High Voltage power lines are the most obvious and dangerous culprits, but the same EMFs exist in gradually decreasing levels all along the grid, from substations to transformers to homes.

From the British Medical Journal, June, 2005:

Researchers found that children living within 650 feet of power lines had a 70% greater risk for leukemia than children living 2,000 feet away or more.

From Epidemiology, 2003 Jul;14(4):413-9:

"Several studies have identified occupational exposure to extremely low-frequency electromagnetic fields (EMF) as a potential risk factor for neurodegenerative disease."

From Epidemiology, 2002 Jan;13(1):9-20

There is "strong prospective evidence that prenatal maximum magnetic field exposure above a certain level (possibly around 16 mG) may be associated with miscarriage risk."

From the Internal Medicine Journal, 2007

In a study of 850 lymphoma, leukemia and related conditions, researchers from the University of Tasmania and Britain's Bristol University found that living for a prolonged period near high-voltage power lines increased the risk for these conditions later in life.

- People who lived within 328 yards of a power line up to age 5 were five times more likely to develop cancer as an adult.
- People who lived within 328 yards of a power line at any point up to age 15 years were three times more likely to develop cancer as an adult.

Dr. David Carpenter, Dean of the School of Public Health (SUNY), believes that up to 30% of all childhood cancers come from exposure to high voltage power lines.

Even the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cautions citizens that "There is reason for concern" and advises "prudent avoidance" of high voltage power lines.

The California Department of Health concluded that EMFs were responsible for an increase in childhood leukemia, adult brain cancer, Lou Gehrig's disease and miscarriage in the 2002 report, "An Evaluation of the Possible Risks From Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs) From Power Lines, Internal Wiring, Electrical Occupations and Appliances."

The studies cited above and dozens of other epidemiological studies specifically link high voltage power lines with:

- Brain tumors
- Leukemia
- Birth defects
- Lymphoma

Members of the Energy & Natural Resources Committee, you were not elected to take away the local authority that voters have also put into place in their communities, that ensure that their health and safety would be considered when companies bringing harm to them come to their area. Voters want local entities and local ordinances to rule.

They do not want the State taking away those rights, or any other rights. This needs to stop right now. It needs to stop with this bill.

You were elected to protect and serve the residents of North Dakota.

I urge you to do just that and VOTE NO on HB 1258.

Respectfully,

Dawn Shepard

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