

Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Susan R. Long, my husband Richard and I have built our lives on this land and have an obligation to protect the land for future generations. Therefore, I **urge you to oppose HB 1258**. This bill is yet another angle to remove local control and further erode property rights. It completely strips land owners from having a voice and hands over the decision making to three people serving on the Public Service Commission.

This bill undermines fundamental private property rights by allowing state permits for electric transmission projects to override local zoning and land use ordinances. As landowners, we have a vested interest in how our land is used and protected. The right to govern land use at the local level is essential to maintaining property values, ensuring safety, and preserving the character of our communities.

Adding the retroactive date of January 1, 2025 not only disregards current local decisions but potentially invalidates Conditional Use Permit denials. I'll use the real life example of Wano and Willowbank Townships in LaMoure County.

This is state sponsored, corporate takings of private property.

The ad shown below was paid for by District 28 Reps. Brandenburg and Grueneich and appeared in several local papers. **Why would our elected officials promote and pay for a JetX Transmission Line advertisement and completely disregard the concerns of their constituents?** The second paragraph states, "We want to preserve the wholesome culture and nurturing environment of our state."

Omitted was: With high voltage transmission lines, substations, wind towers, solar panels, underground battery storage, CO2 carbon pipelines (Google: Kill Zone), data centers, air carbon capture facilities, eFuel facility, etc.

**Is this how you envision and define a nurturing environment?**

I respectfully ask that you protect local control and property rights by voting **no on HB 1258**.

Thank you for your time.

Susan R. Long, Berlin, ND

## JETx transmission line means new opportunities



Representative  
Mike  
Brandenburg



Representative  
Jim  
Grueneich

Population by County: District 28			
	2000	2025	Net Loss
Dickey	5,757	4,900	857
LaMoure	4,701	4,096	605
Logan	2,308	1,869	439
McIntosh	3,390	2,488	902
Sargent	4,366	3,776	590
<b>District 28</b>	<b>20,522</b>	<b>17,129</b>	<b>3,393</b>

Many of us in rural North Dakota have spent our adult lives working for more opportunities for our young people. That is because we have seen the devastation caused by population loss, and we want to do something about it—churches closing, schools closing, businesses closing and the struggle to provide medical and other vital services.

Our dream has always been to build on our agricultural base, to foster value-added agriculture and to bring good-paying jobs that will allow our children and grandchildren to thrive in rural North Dakota. At the same time, we want to preserve the wholesome culture and nurturing environment of our state.

This part of North Dakota got a badly needed boost when the Edgeley-Kulm Wind Farm was built over 20 years ago. It brought new jobs, new tax revenue for local government and new income for landowners.

The relationship with the wind farm has been a positive one, and the turbines have added electricity to a grid hungry for more.

Our towns and farms have been electrified for around 75 years, so we take electricity for granted. However, ask a North Dakotan in their 90s, and they may recall there was opposition to the power lines that run along our county and township roads and the big lines that criss-cross the countryside. A few landowners thought they were eyesores and might be unhealthy for humans and livestock. Some would not sign leases to allow lines to cross their land.

It would be hard to find anyone

today who would deny the benefits of rural electrification to farms and ranches, businesses and homes. Yet, there is opposition to a 91-mile transmission line from Jamestown to Ellendale that would carry electricity generated by North Dakota coal, hydroelectric, natural gas and wind energy centers to meet growing energy demand in our state and beyond.

Here's what JETx has stated about the transmission line:

"The Jamestown to Ellendale transmission line (JETx) will enhance reliability by creating a high-voltage loop between Jamestown and Ellendale, providing an alternative pathway for electricity to be delivered to the local area. The alternative delivery into Jamestown and Ellendale will make the system more resilient to extreme weather events or when other transmission facilities may be out of service.

"As energy needs continue to rise for all types of customers, JETx will increase transmission capacity, further enabling the delivery of low-cost energy to customers throughout the region.

"OTP (Ottertail) and MDU are estimating that through JETx they will pay:

"Over \$10 million dollars cumulatively to local landowners for acquiring land rights.

"More than \$200,000 in cumulative sales tax to the city of Ellendale.

"More than \$20 million dollars cumulative in state sales tax."

We're at the beginning of new opportunities to bring good-paying

jobs to rural North Dakota. It is likely that many of the jobs will be in the tech industry, an industry that needs reliable sources of electricity.

Already being considered is more wind turbines in Dickey and LaMoure County. There is also talk of value-added ag facilities that will need electricity.

With access to electricity, companies will be considering our area, and new businesses mean new jobs and new opportunities. That means jobs for our children and grandchildren in Ellendale, Oakes, Kulm, Edgeley, Forbes, LaMoure, Guelph, Monango, Ludden and towns across the border in South Dakota.

Leaders in this area were looking to the future with the creation of the Career Tech Education Centers at Oakes and Edgeley. The availability of electricity from the proposed transmission line means students taking tech classes now may have jobs waiting for them when they complete their education. They will have the chance to have a good job and raise a family in rural North Dakota.

We are beginning to see opportunities that we never dreamed of being possible. What else is coming to rural North Dakota that will put more kids in our schools, more people in our churches and provide more jobs?

The Jamestown to Ellendale transmission line is progress we need to embrace.

Advertisement paid for by  
Brandenburg and Grueneich