



HOWARD MARKLEIN

STATE SENATOR • 17TH SENATE DISTRICT

May 15, 2018

Mr. Lon Roberts, Chairman
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
PO Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

RE: Proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line.

Dear Chairman Roberts:

As the State Senator for the 17th Senate District, I write to you today to seek your thorough and cautious review of the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line project (Docket No. 5-CE-146).

Throughout the last three years, I have studied the proposed powerline project, met with stakeholders and listened to dozens of concerned constituents. I have attended open houses and meetings about the line, studied the plans and have encouraged the residents of the 17th Senate District to reach out the Public Service Commission (PSC) directly. I know that my role as a legislator is similar to that of any resident, but I have been asked to share my thoughts with the Commission and that is my goal today.

I share the main concern among my constituents. We want to know whether this powerline project is necessary. Our communities have seen several major powerline projects within the last decade. Many of the residents I represent do not believe that there is a quantifiable need for more transmission. American Transmission Co. (ATC) has told us that there is a need – but we need the PSC to analyze and determine if this is true. I request that the PSC strongly considers whether these lines are necessary to provide power to our residents. I challenge you to seek quantifiable justification for the project from the company during the application process.

I am also concerned about the financial implications of this project. I do not want the residents of our communities to suffer an unfair financial burden on our utility bills as a result of this project. Please consider this concern during your analysis.

Beyond the financial costs of this project, we are also concerned about the environmental costs to our region. The route of the powerlines through our communities will, undoubtedly, impact the aesthetic and natural value of the driftless region. This is no small thing.

Much of our economy in southwest Wisconsin is based on the natural beauty of our area. Please take this into consideration when weighing the importance of this project. Is the impact to our aesthetic, natural environment worth the proposed outcome of the project? What is the real impact?

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns about the Cardinal-Hickory Creek project. I trust that the commission will carefully and thoroughly consider the proposed project before making a determination. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about my concerns or those of the residents I represent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Howard Marklein".

Howard Marklein
State Senator
17th Senate District