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House of Representatives  
State of Iowa  
*Eighty-Fifth General Assembly*  
STATEHOUSE  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

**COMMITTEES**  
Natural Resources, *Vice Chair*  
Appropriations  
Commerce  
Local Government

**BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Human Services

December 14, 2015

Iowa Utilities Board  
1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0069

**FILED WITH**  
**Executive Secretary**

**December 14, 2015**

**IOWA UTILITIES BOARD**

Dear Chair Huser and board members Jacobs and Wagner,

We the undersigned members of the Iowa Legislature are writing to urge you to reject the "Motion To Establish Procedural Schedule" by Rock Island Clean Line (RICL). The Docket Numbers are E-22123 through E-22138.

The motion to bifurcate the schedule so that parcel specific eminent domain is determined as a separate phase from the overall merits of the project has already been rejected twice by the Iowa Utilities Board. We the undersigned object in the strongest terms to this tactic of filing the same motion over and over in order to circumvent the past decisions against it. The first two decisions by your board should be sufficient.

We also urge you to reject the entire project because the "Rock Island Clean Line" is not part of any overall power grid plan under MISO. Therefor approving it would set a dangerous precedent. Allowing our state to be crisscrossed with privately owned power-lines without any regard to the overall power grid plan would wreak havoc on our overall power grid strategy as well as wreak havoc on the private property rights of Iowans.

It is our understanding based on the number of easements filed at county courthouses that less than 12% of the landowners affected by this transmission line have agreed to voluntary easement on their property. (177 easements filed out of 1,540 effected properties). With more than 88% refusing, it is clear that RICL is not wanted by the vast majority of landowners affected in Iowa and that eminent domain should not be granted for this project. Granting eminent domain authority would severely trample on the rights of individual citizens to manage

their own affairs and cause undo damage to private property. Such a grant would essentially put private property rights up for sale to private corporations, clearly a violation of our constitutional rights.

RICL management has indicated to leaders of the Preservation of Rural Iowa Alliance that RICL does not have land agents currently working in Iowa to obtain more voluntary easements. Therefor it is clear that Rock Island Clean Line wants IUB approval of the project separately from the eminent domain decision as a means to further pressure reluctant landowners. We believe that the IUB should not be party to such a tactic being used against Iowa's citizens by a private company.

Constituents in many of our districts will be irreparably harmed if this motion is approved, we urge you to reject this motion by RICL.

Sincerely,

***Note: Missing signatures have been approved are by email, a signed letter will be provided at a later date.***



Rep. Dean Fisher  
Garwin

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Rep. Bobby Kaufman  
Wilton

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Rep. Ralph Watts  
Adel