

January 6, 2016

IOWA UTILITIES BOARD

E-22131

I am a farmer from Grundy County. The proposed RICL would cross 2.5 miles of land that our family owns or leases from others. It would impact over 800 acres of our farming operation. We do not have a large farming operation so this would have a significant impact on our farming operation today and for generations to come.

One of the most important functions of our government is to protect its citizens and their rights from the abuses of the wealthy and the powerful.

I would assume that Clean Line Energy Partners had a very thorough understanding of the approval process required for their proposed RICL before undertaking such a huge project. It is very concerning to me and to many other citizens concerned with private property rights that a multi-billion dollar private investment funds continues to try to change the long-standing standard operating procedures to their advantage. They full well knew the process before launching their project. The very least they can do is follow the process already in place. Other projects, including our traditional public multi-use utilities have followed the standard process; special privileges should not be granted to private merchant lines that benefit primarily out-of-state investors. If the RICL project is such a needed project, it should be able to gain approval through the process that has served our state so well for so many years without special favors.

As a party that has a very direct and very significant stake in the outcome of this process, I am opposed to the proposed procedural change. The vast majority of landowners that I am aware of are also opposed to the procedural change.

In RICL's reply, they are critical of several of the responses that argued the merits of the project and were not matters that are pertinent to the consideration of the Motion before the Board. Yet, a significant portion of their reply dealt with the merits of the project and was not pertinent to the Motion.

I do not have millions of dollars at my disposal to try to influence the outcome of this decision. I am not asking you to change the process in my favor; I am asking you to help protect my rights from the influence of billions of dollars of private investment funds.