

June 3, 2015

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20), 1222 Program
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585



RE: Support for the Plains & Eastern Clean Line under Section 1222 of EPA Act of 2005

Dear Secretary Moniz,

I am writing to express support for the Plains & Eastern Clean Line and to urge the Department of Energy and Southwestern Power Administration to participate in the proposed project. This transmission project is in the public interest because it will stimulate economic development, create jobs, expand interregional transmission capacity, and improve system reliability. Not only will the Plains & Eastern Clean Line enable billions of dollars in new investments, generate millions of dollars in revenues for counties and local communities annually, and create thousands of jobs in the Mid-South and Southeast, its approval will have a profound impact on my home state of Kansas as well.

Kansans have seen huge economic benefit from our existing wind industry, more than 20% of all electricity created in Kansas in 2014 was from wind. As the starting point for another Clean Line project, the Grain Belt Express, Kansas will double our wind energy production, providing a second crop to landowners and new jobs for our rural economy. As we begin to determine how we will meet EPA's Clean Power Plan, new wind energy investments will be at the top of our list. The Grain Belt Express can help us transition to a low-carbon economy and protect our diminishing water resources.

Your participation in the Plains & Eastern Clean Line project will signal to regulators across the nation that the United States is committed to bringing low cost clean energy from the Heartland, encouraging them to follow your lead.

While the U.S. has some of the best renewable resources in the world, there is a demand for transmission infrastructure to connect the best wind resources, which are located predominantly in remote areas, to distant cities and communities with a demand for low-cost clean energy. Direct current technology is the most efficient means of moving large amounts of energy over long distances. Through the use of this technology, the Plains & Eastern Clean Line will modernize the country's transmission infrastructure and facilitate the reliable delivery of low-cost renewable energy across regions.

The Plains & Eastern Clean Line will address the increasing demand for interregional transmission capacity to move power from the wind-rich central United States to the Mid-South and Southeast. It is a much-needed infrastructure project for the public use and benefit that will have far reaching impacts on our clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Barnett, Executive Director
Climate + Energy Project
Hutchinson, Kansas