

No to Eminent Domain

17. #11

1/2/2011
HB 198

It is unfair to give utility companies "Eminent Domain" power when they ship electricity out of state. As the Judge said, "That is not a public enterprise" worthy of eminent domain power.

How does Eminent Domain cost landowners where transmission lines run?

Examples of unhindered negotiation without Eminent Domain:

Cell tower landowners get approximately *\$7200 per tower every year*

Wind Turbine landowners get *\$5000-\$7000 per tower every year*

Example of negotiation with Eminent Domain hanging over Landowner's head:

Transmission Lines have 4-5 towers per mile, with wires hanging between the towers
Utility pays 75% of fair market value for an easement containing approximately 24 acres per mile

If your land is worth \$500 per acre, you get *\$9000 as a one-time payment* for each mile of line

How much market value loss does the transmission line landowner suffer on the rest of his ranch's value? Much, much more than the \$9000 one-time payment!

Other Considerations

How much scenic value do all Montanans give up where lines and substations are built?

If we must build transmission lines we should put them as much as possible on public land and let private landowners negotiate without the Eminent Domain hammer hanging over their heads.

The utility companies will make millions on these lines
The wind farm operators and turbine landowners make big money

But the landowners whose land is crossed by transmission lines are forced by Eminent Domain to accept a negligible amount and suffer the devaluation of their property for as long as the lines remain. Once a line is placed, more lines will follow. Who will buy our property in the future?

Bob HASEMAN
443 0918

