

TESTIMONY HB198 JANUARY 12, 2011

Submitted by  
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I oppose HB 198! Many others have testified before the committee, and have expressed their opposition to the bill. In addition to the thoughts expressed by others, I would like to add the following comments:

1. Eminent domain is already a tool that may be used to site transmission lines. Any additional powers given to industry at the expense of ordinary citizens is unwarranted.
2. Eminent domain not only affects the land owners whose property is taken, but also affects the value of the properties around them. Sufficient care should be taken to protect all citizens.
3. HB 198 will erode the authority of county governments. County commissions and city governments are the local voices of the people and should be the ones first involved, and involved throughout the entire siting process.
4. The effect of HB 198 will be to encourage the *de facto* establishment of new federal energy corridors in Broadwater, Jefferson, Beaverhead, and Madison Counties. Perhaps even more! The Bill will continue to encourage a complete disregard of five to seven years effort on the part of BLM, USFS and others to develop Federal Energy Corridors through the Programmatic EIS process. That is a tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars. Had the recommendations and conclusions of the PEIS been followed, there would be no need for HB198.
5. The attached map shows the "agency-preferred-route, as proposed by NWE" through Jefferson county where over 80% of the line has been deliberately sited on private land although the requirement is continually stated that the route will make use of public land as much as possible. In a county where over 70% of the land is public, it seems as if a less than genuine effort was made to find a public lands option.

Under the guise of shortening the permitting process in order to cut short the seemingly never ending delays caused by environmental activities, industry representatives are proposing the taking of a fundamental right of the citizens of Montana. Opposition to HB 198 is from ranchers, farmers, homeowners and even local governments. Don't let one industry jeopardize our way of life.

**Legend**

- all\_msti\_alternatives
- MSTI 1/4 mile Privately owned lands
- Jefferson\_shp**
- OwnerClass**
- Local Government
- Private
- Right of Way
- State Government
- USDA Forest Service
- USDI Bureau of Land Management
- Water

**JEFFERSON COUNTY**

