

EXHIBIT 20
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HB 198

Statement From Private Citizen on HB 198

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I urge all members of this hearing board to protect property rights. This is not an issue limited only to where Northwestern Energy and TransCanada want to confiscate land. HB 198 opens up harm to private property owners across the state.

Citizens applauded the recent ruling by District Judge Laurie McKinnon in Cutbank, Mont. against a Canadian high-voltage power line developer's authority to condemn private property in Montana. There are processes in place right now to negotiate with landowners directly.

Citizens like myself are watching this bill carefully to see how a Montana legislator votes on this bill -- their vote will put them squarely on record as either favoring out-of-state and out-of-country corporate interests or standing up to those interests by voting to defend the constitutional and private property rights of everyday, working Montanans