

Tom Lythgoe - Jefferson County Commissioner

Jefferson County knows something about MFSA. We filed a lawsuit against DEQ based on concerns that the process in place does not provide accountability to citizens that will be impacted by transmission lines. SB 320 would effectively eliminate accountability and is a step in the wrong direction.

The landscape has changed with deregulation. The decision to build large transmission lines is being made by foreign corporations intent on selling power out of state. They do not care what impact those decisions have on Montana's citizens.

Jefferson County thinks the way to assure Montana's prosperity is to adopt policies that provide power to companies and citizens that provide jobs in Montana, not policies that send that power out of state

The title says it clarifies provisions of MFSA. That's misleading. For all intents and purposes this bill repeals MFSA because it would allow out of state corporations to build powerlines of any size they want without citizen input and without state oversight. Power that could be used by Montana to support business here will be shipped out of state and our citizens will have to live with the impacts.

Imagine 50 years ago your grandfather granted an easement on your ranch for a distribution line. Under this bill, that line can be turned in to a Merchant Export line of unlimited size and there is nothing you can do about it.

Vote for accountability. Vote do not pass.