

Title: Repeal Utilities Eminent Domain Exceptions

Dear Editor:

CAPX2020 will soon be placing 170 foot towers bearing 345 kV high voltage transmission lines through this area. Many landowners will be forced to sell easements to electric utility companies. If exceptions to eminent domain law are not repealed during this session, landowners will be at a great disadvantage when trying to negotiate a fair price for their easements. The exceptions allow utilities to make very low offers on easements, take away landowner financial reimbursement for attorney costs to dispute bad offers, and don't require utilities to make fair compensation to landowners for loss of a going concern.

House File #1182 and Senate File #1112 are bills that will repeal these exceptions if they are passed. Contact your state legislators and ask them to repeal the exceptions to the eminent domain law for Public Service Corps (Minnesota Statutes 2008, Section 117.189). Also contact the members of the following committees who must vote these bills out of committee and send them on to the floor of each chamber: House Energy Finance and Policy Division Committee, House Civil Justice Committee, Senate Energy, Utilities, Technology and Communications Committee, and State and Local Operations an Oversight Committee. It must be done early in the 2010 session.

Whether you are an affected landowner or not *this time*, this law, if unchanged, may affect you in the future. So, please contact your legislators. Ask them why the County and MNDOT need to pay for appraisers and attorneys and compensate people fairly for the loss of going concern of their business if they take a person's land, but utilities don't need to do the same when they shove a huge power line on private property.

To find your legislators and committee members, visit the following websites:
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/> and <http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/>.

Signed:

Richard Bresnahan, LeRoy Gondringer & John Merdan, Avon Township Supervisors