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January 16, 2013

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CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Honorable Robert F. Powelson, Chairman
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 3rd Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Chairman Powelson:

We are writing to officially express our opposition to PPL Electric's application for the use of eminent domain for a proposed project for Northumberland, Snyder and Juniata counties. PPL asserts that its proposed Richfield-Dalmatia 69 kV transmission line project and the accompanying Meiserville substation are intended to improve service in the local service area. We question the reasonableness of the approach taken in this case.

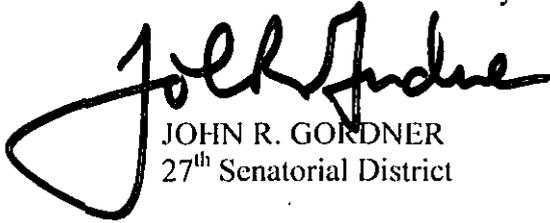
At various stages, several land owners in the path of the proposed transmission line and substation have provided oral and written testimony against both the plan and the use of eminent domain to secure land for the project. While numerous concerns were provided throughout the process, two issues cause us the greatest concern. First, the detrimental effect on several local businesses could be devastating. PPL is requesting eminent domain, which would seize crucial real estate from multiple businesses and farms, including a multi-generational tree farm. At the very least, this will hinder the ability to continue to operate these businesses in an efficient manner. At worst, it will completely destroy the ability for these businesses to remain operational. Second, the loss of property values for commercial and residential landowners could be substantial. While eminent domain requires the landowners to be compensated for the market value of the land being seized, it does not take into account the loss of value in the remaining property by the emergence of large power lines, towers or a substation directly abutting the property. If a plan is going to result in such devastating effects on land and business owners, it must be absolutely necessary.

Further, we note that Administrative Law Judges David A. Salapas and Joel H. Cheskis have issued an order that recommends that all portions of the PPL Application be denied. Specifically, the order states "...PPL has failed to satisfy its burden to demonstrate that the proposed Richfield-Dalmatia 69 kV transmission line and the Meiserville substation are necessary [underline added] for the service, accommodation, convenience or safety of the public." We

support this recommendation. If the new line is not an absolute necessity, we should not allow the citizens and business owners in its proposed path to be forced to sacrifice.

For all of these reasons, we ask that you disapprove PPL Electric's application in this case. Thank you for your careful consideration of our request.

Very truly yours,



JOHN R. GORDNER
27th Senatorial District



LYNDA SCHLEGEL CULVER
108th House District

CC: PUC Commissioners

Senator Robert M. Tomlinson, Chairman,

Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee

June Perry, PUC



Senate of Pennsylvania

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MESSENGER

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