

MINUTES
JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
Arvest Bank, Community Room
1645 Hwy 412 West, Siloam Springs, Arkansas
Friday, September 11, 2015

The Joint Interim Committee on Energy met at 8:15 a.m. Friday, September 11, 2015, at Arvest Bank, Community Room, 1645 Hwy 412 West, Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

Committee members present: Senators David Burnett, Chair; Scott Flippo and Bryan King. Representatives Bob Ballinger, Chair; Rick Beck, Vice Chair; Charlotte Vining Douglas, Kim Hendren, Jack Ladyman, Robin Lundstrum, Betty Overbey and Brent Talley.

Alternate members present: Representative Ken Bragg.

Also attending: Representatives Jim Dotson, Charlene Fite and Stephen Meeks.

Senator Burnett called the meeting to order.

CLEAN LINE UPDATE [Handout #1]

Representative Charlotte Douglas presented the committee with an “Opposition to Clean Line Data Synopsis.” The twelve objections are listed below:

1. There is no proven need for this project
2. Only 27 permanent jobs created by this project in Arkansas
3. All facilities in Arkansas will be tax exempt
4. Federal eminent domain overriding state’s rights
5. Risk of increased childhood cancer
6. Interference with large farming activities in eastern Arkansas
7. Impediment to future mineral development
8. Devastating effects on our unique, protected environment
9. Destruction of vistas across our entire state affecting tourism
10. Conflict of interest
11. Viable alternatives exist
12. Federal, state and local governments oppose project

Representative Douglas noted the state is not against wind energy, it is for alternative energy solutions. The controversy is how Clean Line is going around the state’s objection to the transmission lines and using federal law to enable them to not be a public utility and to use eminent domain to take land from citizens and build a private transmission line.

OTHER BUSINESS – PROPOSED RESOLUTION [Handout #2]

Representative Ladyman made a motion to approve the Proposed Committee Resolution Requesting that the Joint Interim Committee on Energy support the efforts of Congressmen Rick Crawford, French Hill, Bruce Westerman, and Steve Womack to lift the ban on the export of crude oil as a means by which to grow our economy, strengthen our position as a global leader, and further our national security. The motion was seconded by Senator Flippo, and without objection, the motion carried.

Senator King requested someone from the Department of Energy to address the Clean Line Project. He suggested a congressman might help with the request.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Legislators and guests toured the Flint Creek Power Plant after the meeting.

[Note: Senator Burnett’s name was added to the resolution before sending to the Congressmen.]