

JOHN BOOZMAN
ARKANSAS

141 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
202-224-4843

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 31, 2017

COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

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RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

HANDOUT #1

Hon. Brian King, Arkansas Senator, District 5
Hon. Rick Beck, Arkansas Representative, District 65
Chairmen, Joint Energy Committee
Arkansas State Capitol, Room 315
500 Woodlane Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Senator King and Representative Beck:

On March 6, 2017, the Arkansas delegation introduced S. 529, the *Assuring Private Property Rights Over Vast Access to Land Act* or the APPROVAL Act. One day later, on March 7, 2017 the delegation followed up with a letter to Secretary of Energy, Rick Perry, expressing our concerns with how the Plains and Eastern Clean Line Project came to fruition.

The APPROVAL Act would require that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) receive the approval of both the governor and the public service commission of an affected state before exercising the federal power of eminent domain to acquire property for Section 1222 transmission projects.

On March 17, 2017, Senator Cotton and I sent a letter to Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (ENR Committee) requesting that they schedule a hearing on the legislation as soon as practicable, so the Committee can report the bill to the full Senate for consideration. We remain hopeful that the ENR Committee will take up this important legislation in the coming months.

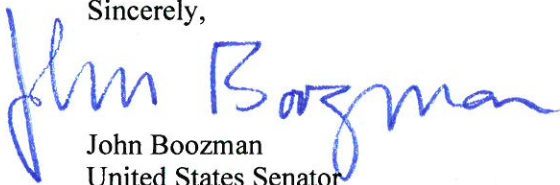
Since sending our letter to Secretary Perry, I have been in correspondence with DOE, and we are hopeful to receive a response to our letter in the near future.

To be clear, the APPROVAL Act is not a fight against renewable energy. Simply put, this is a state's rights issue that must be addressed as soon as possible.

I believe that if these concerns are ignored and projects using Section 1222 are allowed to move forward, not only are American citizens facing the prospect of losing their property due to a decision by the federal government, but DOE risks codifying into law the practice of federal eminent domain seizures, violating the rights of all Americans to have their voices heard at the state and local level.

The entire delegation is working hand in hand to stop this gross example of government overreach, and will not stop until the state of Arkansas has its voice heard.

Sincerely,



John Boozman
United States Senator

106 W. MAIN ST.
SUITE 104
EL DORADO, AR 71730
870-863-4641

1120 GARRISON AVE.
SUITE B
FORT SMITH, AR 72901
479-573-0189

300 S. CHURCH ST.
SUITE 400
JONESBORO, AR 72401
870-268-6925

1401 W. CAPITOL AVE.
PLAZA F
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201
501-372-7153

213 W. MONROE
SUITE N
LOWELL, AR 72745
479-725-0400

1001 HWY. 62 E.
SUITE 11
MOUNTAIN HOME, AR 72653
870-424-0129

620 E. 22ND ST.
SUITE 204
STUTTGART, AR 72160
870-672-6941