

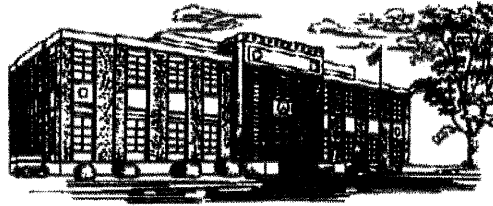
10 East 5th Street
Room 301
Fulton, MO 65251

CALLAWAY COUNTY COMMISSION

Phone: (573) 642-0737
(573) 642-0738
Fax: (573) 642-1032

Curt Warfield
Eastern District Commissioner

Christopher Scott
Western District Commissioner



Gary Jungermann
Presiding Commissioner

Myra Winters
Deputy to Commission

February 14, 2025

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Wright,

Callaway County in Missouri is currently experiencing pressures related to the implementation of multiple solar energy projects as well as the Tiger Connector spur line of the Grain Belt Express project. Our county has a proud 204-year history of independence, including fierce protections of landowner rights. Due to the lack of local ordinances, our county has become a prime target for solar companies and for the southern terminus of the Tiger Connector.

Many of our constituents do not want these solar projects and new power lines developed in Callaway County, as they will lead to the loss of valuable farmland and forests. Because we do not have local planning and zoning ordinances to enforce, we depend on Missouri State and U.S. Federal authorities to regulate these projects. We are writing to you to request that the federal funding for these programs be frozen and, where possible, cancelled.

The Grain Belt Express and the related Tiger Connector line are currently facing challenges to gain project environmental approvals and multiple state approvals. The developer, Invenergy Investment Company LLC, has turned to eminent domain as a method of route development. The only apparent reason for the Tiger Connector spur line being planned as the only spur on the entire 800+ mile long power line has been to gain approval from the Missouri State Public Service Commission (MOPSC). Without the approval of this Tiger Connector spur line planned to terminate in Callaway County, the State of Missouri would still be a blocker to the overall Grain Belt project, along with Kansas and Illinois.

In a dependent relationship, the Tiger Connector and the Grain Belt Express provide additional justification to localized solar development. One planned development has already prompted the construction of a new power substation, which is coincidentally planned to be the southern terminus of the Tiger Connector. The Grain Belt developer, Invenergy, has agreed with the MOPSC to deliver up to 25Mw of power INTO this new substation, but has not disclosed their plans to carry the solar power OUT of the planned solar project.

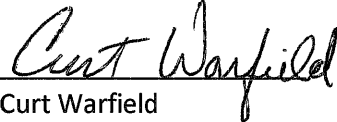
The Callaway Commission is very concerned for the economic future of our county and the State of Missouri because thousands of acres of prime farmland being taken out of production. The economic cycles impacted by the lost farmland include those businesses selling farming equipment, livestock feed, seed, and fertilizer, not to mention many smaller local services that support these trades. The overall future economic impact is not easily measurable but would be devastating to our county.

The Callaway County Commission is requesting that all federal funding for the Grain Belt Express, the related Tiger Connector, and all Callaway County solar projects be immediately frozen and, where possible, cancelled. Please protect the long-term sustainability of our precious Missouri farmland and the local economy of our farming communities.

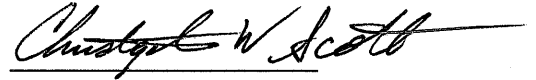
Sincerely,
The Callaway County Commission



Gary Jungermann
Presiding Commissioner



Curt Warfield
Eastern District Commissioner



Christopher Scott
Western District Commissioner