

Statement – Karen T. Van Sanford

My name is Karen Tichenor Van Sanford. My parents, Carroll and Doris Tichenor have spoken about their farm and the permanent damage to farmland and historic sites that would result from the construction of the power line.

I would like to address the issue from the standpoint of the younger generation who will have the responsibility for the farm in the future. I remember my grandfather who stubbornly refused to leave his lifelong home and farm and remained there until his death at the age of 92. Then my parents took over the property and began to implement a long range plan for land stabilization, building repair and restoration, and wildlife habitat improvement. They have devoted the past thirty years to this task and have lived to see the results of their hard work, a well-maintained farm that is both productive and beautiful.

From their house high on a hill overlooking the farm, you can see the historic house and ferry site on the river, and some of the archaeological sites as well. Now the high tension power line on 90 foot poles threatens to become the dominant feature of the landscape for the rest of their lives and forever after. It would be a crime to place the power line directly through this beauty, all the way to the river and beyond.

Ever since I was a small child my parents have impressed upon me the importance of my agricultural heritage and my responsibility to stewardship of the land in the future. My husband and I have two boys who also had this heritage drummed into them since they were babies. Because of the importance of this agricultural heritage that is embodied in our historic farm, my family and I strongly oppose the proposed power line route and urge the Public Service Commission to require that EKPC select an alternate route that makes use of an existing right of way.

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