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March 25, 2025

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SE
Washington, DC 20560

Dear Secretary Wright,

I write once again to bring your attention to the Department of Energy's \$4.9 billion conditional loan to the green-energy Grain Belt Express transmission line. Recently, officials from the Department of Energy confirmed that your department is moving forward with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, a key step in approving the loan. This goes directly against the wishes of constituents in my state – who have fought this transmission line for years.

Shortly after President Trump took office, DOE announced it would pause all loans funded by Democrats Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). In response to this announcement, on February 4, 2025, I wrote a letter to DOE seeking clarity about status of the draft EIS and the Grain Belt Express's conditional loan.

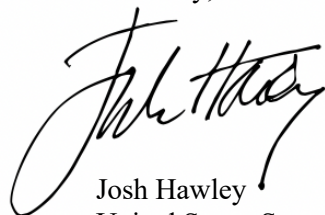
On March 6, 2025, I received correspondence from your department indicating that the process would continue to move forward. It reads:

“During the public comment period, DOE LPO hosted 6 public meetings – 4 in-person meetings and 2 virtual public meetings – to allow the public to learn more about DEIS, ask questions, and provide oral testimony, on the following dates. In person meetings: Feb. 10 (Dodge City, Kansas), Feb. 11 (Concordia, KS), Feb 12 (St. Joseph, MO), Feb. 13 (Carrollton, MO); Virtual Meetings: Feb. 19 and 20... LPO will review all the comments received and prepare a response to comments, document and incorporate any updates in the Environmental Impact Statement, and we estimate that DOE will issue a Final EIS in July 2025.”

I am alarmed that DOE is moving forward with the draft EIS process for the Grain Belt Express. Currently, Invenergy, the parent company for the Grain Belt Express is bringing eminent domain cases against farmers in my state. Additionally, I have repeatedly raised concerns to DOE about the viability of the transmission line. Your department should be taking every possible action to stop this loan.

It's not too late to reverse course. I urge you to immediately terminate all agency actions related to the Department of Energy's \$4.9 billion loan to the Grain Belt Express.

Sincerely,



Josh Hawley
United States Senator