

November 13, 2025 Commissioners Court public session

Good morning. My name is John Nelson ,my wife of 35 years and I, live in the community Ranches of Blackbuck Ridge along CR 108, which is a wildlife management association of which we are practicing members and one of the many Burnet county citizens, ranchers, landowners that will be directly impacted by the 765kv transmission line project proposed by ONCOR and the LCRA.

I do wish to thank the commissioner's for taking the necessary steps in finally issuing a resolution opposing these horrific transmission lines in Burnet county and to Commissioner Beierle for hosting the public meeting with PUCT PR manager Mike Hoke, even though, in my opinion, the information provided by Mr. Hoke was extremely limited and not as helpful as I had hoped.

These are just the first steps in opposition to this project but, we cannot let our guard down and need to do more to eliminate these projects entirely and demand they utilize more environmentally conscious on-site solutions to suit the apparent power need for these data centers.

Allow me to recap,

The Bell County East- Big Hill 765kv project, proposed by ONCOR and LCRA, seeks to construct high-voltage transmission lines utilizing massive steel towers to carry these high voltage lines through multiple counties in Texas, including Burnet County and the proposed route will have a significant and permanent negative impact on my community, local landowners, farms, wildlife habitats, rural communities, including generational family properties/ ranchers and environmentally sensitive acreage.

This isn't just about power lines and data centers. Most importantly, its about the documented health risks to children, adults and wildlife, it's about permanently disrupting our scenic tranquility, degrading are dark skies practices and the potential contamination or complete collapse of the aquifers so many of us depend on just to name a few.

These towers are atrocious eyesores that will sabotage our property values up to 45%, permanently and negatively alter our natural surroundings affecting the overall natural beauty of our beloved bluebonnet Hill country corridor.

Additionally, I have concerns that our local and county emergency services could be overwhelmed if just one of these towers suffered a structural failure in a remote area and potentially start a wildfire like the infamous Camp Fire in

2018 that consumed the entire town of Paradise, California, which burned over 153,000 acres, displaced more than 50,000 people, killed 85 people and destroyed 18,600 structures! Look, we experience very similar weather conditions here in Texas: high winds, long periods of extreme drought, the geological makeup of Burnet County in itself is very diverse and even treacherous to navigate in areas, when coupled with Mother nature's unpredictability it's like de ja vu in the making.

The decision makers that approved this project are play roulette with our lives, our land and our livelihoods and we just cannot let that happen.

Consider this Commissioners, a single broken hook on a transmission line tower on any given day in Texas could potentially cause the catastrophic loss of 25% or more of our entire county and displace over 85% of our residents!

Who, in their right mind, would want that kind of legacy?

Thank you