

My name is Melissa Duckworth. I live on the proposed G6 route. We have four parcels of land that we treasure that would be adversely affected by the 765 kv transmission line project proposed to decimate Burnet county. I wanted to touch on forward thinking and backward thinking.

Texas HB 14 passed in September 2025, establishing TNEO, Texas Advanced Nuclear Energy Office within the office of the Governor.. which is being heavily promoted. Among other vehicles for nuclear production, this bill includes millions of dollars dedicated towards the rapid design and commercialization of small modular nuclear reactors or SMR's. Many companies are heavily invested in these SMR's for the purpose of fully operating AI data centers with uninterrupted power. A few of these companies are X Energy, Amazon and Terra Power backed by Bill Gates. The list goes on. The federal government has also streamlined some of the regulatory processes. They will be commercially available for use around 2030. It seems counterintuitive not to strongly consider implementing these SMR's which are on the production fast track.

Also worth mentioning is that existing routes have not been adequately studied and must be considered. They must remain an option.

becoming increasingly common and is a faster path to securing massive consistent power. Many could be in use by 2028.

Prudent avoidance is required by law in such a project as constructing and erecting these massive towers and lines. That avoidance study has not taken place and certainly not prudently. Prudent avoidance is derived using backward thinking, realizing conflicts from the past, taking into account soon to be outdated methods and applying those realizations to forward thinking. Both small modular nuclear reactors and on site natural gas plants to power AI data centers are forward thinking projects - indeed visionary.

The 765 kv transmission lines have never been used in the state of Texas and are therefore untested here. The use of them is both unjust and an example of backward thinking- not taking advantage of new technology. Common sense often arises in the face of injustice. Justice and common sense is not introducing possible deadly health risks to humans and wildlife. Justice and common sense is not negatively impacting ecosystems, destroying native plants thereby allowing for the introduction of invasive species. Justice and common sense is not ruining a family legacy affecting descendants to come. And It is certainly not halving one's property values.. Injustice is a product of backward thinking.

A contract has not been awarded to ONCOR. ONCOR would make their vast amount of money through rate increases.

The completion of the 765 kv transmission line project is scheduled to be completed summer of 2030... in line with the SMRs in 2030 and on site natural gas plants around 2028.

We cannot stop progress, nor should we desire to do so. However, these enormous transmission lines are not the product of a visionary. They would only speed the destruction of the beautiful Texas Hill Country. Methods causing the least harm to humans, wildlife and the environment are the only just alternatives. Our communities should be looking for ways to preserve- not destroy. Enhance- not degrade. Think forward- not backward.