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LD 1675

I am writing in opposition to LD 1675 as currently written. My opposition is to the proposed repeal of subsections 5, 6 and 8 of Title 35-A Section 3136. My view is that those subsections provide much needed protection for landowners that proposed repeal would eliminate. I do however find some merit in considering the proposed enactment of subsection 6A in LD 1675. This new subsection would expand protection to landowners for not just high-impact transmission lines but rather for all transmission lines. In addition, it would expand protection to landowners of greater than 200 acres. However, there are some potential pitfalls with the payment language in subsection 6A. Should a transmission line fail to receive revenue, then a landowner may end up in a situation where they are receiving no compensation for damages. Also, should a landowner have a mortgage on the property to be taken by eminent domain, their lender may require an immediate paydown on the mortgage for the value of the property taken. This could place the landowner in the position of having to come out of pocket to pay the lender for the entire value immediately even though they are going to receive the money for the value over the proposed twenty-year repayment schedule in the bill. There should also be a clear annual inflation adjustment escalator for the repayment to avoid any doubt that the revenue sharing that the landowner is receiving is adjusted annually for inflation.