

**Kansas Senate Committee on Utilities**  
**Testimony of Doug Mays**  
**Maple Hill Farm**  
**Tallgrass Ranchers**

**February 14, 2007**

**HB2066**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee: House Bill 2066 amends various statutes in order to facilitate the further extension and upgrading of electric transmission lines throughout Kansas. Maple Hill Farm and Tallgrass Ranchers do not object to the purpose of HB2066, nor any of the specific amendments now contained within the bill.

There is, however, a portion of the bill to which we would draw the committee's attention. Specifically, Section 2, paragraph 2(a), beginning on page 1, line 43 and continuing through page 2, line 2 of the bill.

This paragraph is current law that was enacted in 2000, along with other amendments to KSA 66-1,182. Paragraph 2(a) states that electric transmission lines can be constructed adjacent to limited access four-lane highways without the benefit of oversight of any regulatory or governing body, state or local.

Since its enactment seven years ago, there have been no indications of interest on the part of any utility or transmission line owner to rely on this exemption. Indeed, none of the currently projected line extensions would come close to any four-lane highways except to cross them.

We request the committee to adopt an amendment striking Section 2, paragraph 2(a). Doing so would not necessarily preclude future construction of transmission lines adjacent to any highway in Kansas. It would simply bring such activity, unless otherwise exempted, back under the purview of the Kansas Corporation Commission.

The rationale for this change is our belief that, given the potential impact to individuals, ranches and farms, businesses, and the environment, the permitting process should apply to the construction of new electric transmission lines without regard to vicinity.

We urge the committee to strike the noted paragraph, and favorably pass HB2066. Thank you, I will be happy to stand for questions.