

CITY OF TRENTON, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION NO. 20230327

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED 138KV AMEREN
TRANSMISSION COMPANY SURSEE-AVISTON TRANSMISSION PROJECT

- WHEREAS,** the City of Trenton (“City”), Clinton County, Illinois is a duly created, organized and validly existing municipality of the State of Illinois under the 1970 Illinois Constitution and the laws of the State of Illinois, including particularly the Illinois Municipal Code, and all laws amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto; and
- WHEREAS,** Ameren Transmission Company and the City Of Highland have been working together for years in planning a 138 kV power line through Clinton County, especially Sugar Creek Township, supposedly to improve energy reliability for our Sugar Creek Township citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** although the plan for this 138 KV line has been in process for years, and it was known by the planners that the proposed 138 KV power line would probably run through Sugar Creek Township, neither the Township Board or Sugar Creek Township citizens were notified of this plan, prior to a few months ago; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Highland proposed the same 138 KV transmission line over 30 years ago and it was decided by an Illinois appellate court that construction of the transmission line as proposed by the Highland was not convenient, not necessary, and not the least-cost means; and
- WHEREAS,** as was true 30 years ago, the citizens of Sugar Creek Township are generally opposed to the 138 kV line because of its potential environmental damage to their homes and farmlands and, furthermore have not been convinced that the purpose of the proposed 138 kV power line is solely to improve their or Highland’s energy reliability; and
- WHEREAS,** during a regular session of the Highland Industrial Development Commission, (January 8, 2020, meeting minutes), the City Manager and Angela Imming discussed negotiating with Ameren for a 2nd transmission line to Highland and that “data centers will be located where they can have a guarantee of the best power supply”; and
- WHEREAS,** on January 17, 2023, the Sugar Creek Township Supervisor, Tom Venhaus, requested publicly at a Highland City Council meeting for Highland and Ameren to address concerns that the Sugar Creek Township citizens had regarding the proposed 138 KV power line; generally stating that the citizens Sugar Creek

Township are not convinced the proposed 138 KV line is necessary since their current distribution system is adequate; and

WHEREAS, the Amended March 20, 2017 Comprehensive Plan adopted by & for the City of Highland declares that “Redundancy of the system supply along with the City’s own backup generation ensures maximum power reliability under all but the most catastrophic situations.”; and

WHEREAS, the population of Highland has only increased by 250 people in the last 11 years according to the U.S. Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, because of current Illinois labor laws and tax laws, new industries, jobs and people are generally not migrating to Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland has not responded substantively to Sugar Creek Township Supervisor’s request for additional information regarding the necessity of this proposed 138 KV power line; and

WHEREAS, the proposed planning of the 138KV power line thru Clinton County is less than a quarter mile from the City of Trenton Corporate boundary line; and

WHEREAS, the proposed plan of 138KV power line passes directly thru the City of Trenton’s western enterprise zone; and

WHEREAS, the City of Trenton is generally opposed to the 138KV line because of its potential environmental damage to its residents, and furthermore, its overall damaging effect on the City of Trenton’s westerly expansion including, but not limited to, future annexation, development, and potential future tax revenue;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Trenton as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein as findings of the City Council of the City of Trenton, Illinois.
2. The City Council of Trenton, Illinois, by a vote of two-thirds of its current members, is opposed to the proposed 138 KV Ameren Transmission Company Sursee-Aviston Transmission Project.
3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication as provided by law. A copy of this Resolution, and all attachments thereto, shall be made available for public review and inspection at City Hall.

PASSED and APPROVED this 27th day of March, 2023

Yeas: BERRY, BROWN, DEIEN, MOHME, KNIEMAN, SAMPSON

Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE



ANDY WEH, MAYOR

ATTEST:



KAREN BUZZARD
CITY CLERK