

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
PA Public Utility Commission Commonwealth  
Keystone Building 400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Application of Transource

Pennsylvania, LLC Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57, Subchapter G, For Approval of the Siting and Construction of the 230kV Transmission Line Associated with the Independence Energy Connection-East Project in Portions of York County Pennsylvania

**Docket Number A-2017-2640195**

February 14, 2018

**Objection Letters and Resolutions**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta;

We the undersigned oppose the construction of the Transource Energy Independence Energy Connection-East Project in portions of York County, Pennsylvania.

**We respectfully ask to include the attached Position Statement, Opposition Letter and Official Resolution into Docket Number A-2017-2640195.**

Attached please find:

- 1) An official Position Statement dated September 27, 2017 from the York County Agricultural Preservation Board
- 2) An official Opposition letter dated Nov 29, 2017 from the York County Board of Commissioners.
- 3) An official resolution number: 06-2018 from the York County Board of Commissioners.

Sincerely,



Hugh McPherson 2885 New Park Rd, New Park, PA 17352

**RECEIVED**  
**FEB 21 2018**  
**PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**  
**SECRETARY'S BUREAU**

400375



# YORK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

118 Pleasant Acres Road, Suite F  
York, Pennsylvania 17402  
(717) 840-7400 Fax (717) 840-7418  
[www.YorkCountyPA.gov](http://www.YorkCountyPA.gov)



September 27, 2017

## POSITION PAPER- HIGH ENERGY POWER TRANSMISSION LINES

### History/Rationale:

During the September 19, 2017 York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board meeting, the County Board members discussed at length concerns of the possible impacts to southern York County farmlands relating to proposed 2017 Transource High Energy Power Transmission Lines projected for construction in the southeastern region of York County.

York County Farm Bureau hosted an August 24, 2017 public informational meeting, by public agency officials, to inform the 191 attendees, of the Ag Security Area Laws; Requirements of the Agricultural Conservation Deed of Easement; and the Public Utility Commission procedures for the siting process, as well as, a discussion on property rights and utility easements. Some members of the YCALPB attended this meeting.

### POSITION STATEMENT

Following discussion, during the September 19, 2017 YCALPB meeting, members approved a motion to direct a position statement be prepared and shared with local leadership, opposing the installation of high energy power transmission lines (HEPTL) through privately owned farmlands. The position is premised upon the belief that a financial impact, and potential loss, to the agribusiness industry may result from the installation of high energy power transmission lines (HEPTL). Impacts to the agribusiness community, include but are not limited to the following ; infrastructure installation requires earth disturbance installation methods which result in the degradation of soil health and natural resources through loss of soil structure, soil compaction, and loss of organic matter and biomass; loss of viable cropland acreage limiting cropland for production; overall reduced soil health prevents normal crop yield production; crop losses directly affect net farm income; disturbance of existing desirable plant and tree species encourage the increase of invasive species throughout the right-of way/easement corridor; increased farm inputs (costs of operation) are required to control invasive plant species; removal of valuable timber results when power transmission line infrastructure bisect wooded farmlands; high energy radiation from power lines introduce additional health risks to humans and livestock. Stray voltage remains a concern to dairy managers as a potential impact to milk herd production. As these listed impacts, which have the potential to result in farm income losses, have not been evaluated, nor the affects to farm property values considered, a position is approved to oppose the high energy power transmission line at this time.

# YORK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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YORK COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
28 East Market Street  
York, Pennsylvania 17401-1588  
(717) 771-9964 FAX (717) 771-9804  
[www.yorkcountypa.gov](http://www.yorkcountypa.gov)

November 29, 2017

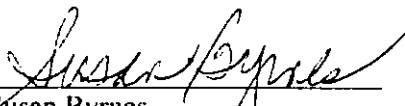
York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board  
118 Pleasant Acres Road, Suite F  
York, PA 17402

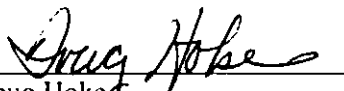
## RE: Proposed High Energy Power Transmission Line Project

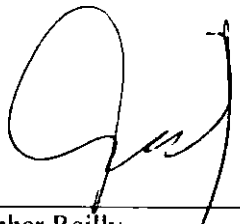
We, the Commissioners of York County, strongly oppose the installation of high powered transmission lines (HEPTZ) through privately owned York County farmlands without first meeting stringent required criteria to prove that existing easements and power line towers cannot provide the desired energy transmission.

Please keep us informed about this important initiative in York County.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Byrnes  
President Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Hoke  
V.P. Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher Reilly  
Commissioner

YORK COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NUMBER :D6 - 2018

February 7, 2018

A Resolution in opposition to the application of Transource of Pennsylvania, LLC to the proposed construction of a new 230 kV Power Transmission Line in Southeastern York County

WHEREAS, Transource Pennsylvania, LLC, has filed an Application Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57 Subchapter G, for Approval of the Siting and Construction of the 230 kV Power Transmission Line Associated with the Independence Energy Connection - East Project in Portions of York County Pennsylvania – Docket No. A-2017-2640195; and,

WHEREAS, the Application filed for the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity requests construction of a new 230 kV Power Transmission Line to be constructed through Hopewell Township, Fawn Township and Lower Chanceford Township of southeastern York County, Pennsylvania; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed route for the construction of the requested transmission line in York County transverses approximately 13 miles of farmland, and bisects a total 49 working family farms, of which 12 farms covering 2,459 acres are preserved by the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board through purchased agricultural conservation easements and 1 farm totaling 167 acres preserved by the Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County through conservation easement donation; and,

WHEREAS, the York County Board of Commissioner's authorized by Resolution Article I - February 7, 1990 Authorization of the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and Article II, July 25, 1990, the Authorization to approve the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board Easement Program Regulations, as recorded in the Code of York County, Pennsylvania, to create an agricultural conservation easement purchase program to permanently limit the use of qualifying farmland to solely commercial agricultural production thus preventing the use of the land for non-agricultural purposes and intending to protect the soil, water, plants, and trees for use by present and future family farmers; and,

WHEREAS, ACT 43, the Agricultural Area Security Law of 1981 provides public policy for Pennsylvania to preserve the natural resources of farms, protect farmer's rights to farm, and strengthen the agricultural economy of Pennsylvania, a \$135.7 Billion dollar industry; and,

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the County of York have spent \$74 Million to purchase conservation easements on 284 farms, covering nearly 42,000 acres since 1990; and,

WHEREAS, the Transource 230 kV Power Transmission Line as proposed for southeastern York County threatens the viability of working family farms, disregards the taxpayer's investment in farmland protection efforts of York County and Pennsylvania; and,

WHEREAS the proposed Transource project is inconsistent with the goals and objectives of Pennsylvania's public policy regarding the protection of farmland and open spaces, and therefore detrimental to the established agricultural and conservation policies of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the economic impacts to the county, municipal, and other tax authorities of the impacted region have not been considered nor potential tax revenue decreases should landowners appeal property assessments following power transmission line construction a situation not considered in the PA Public Utility review process which authorizes proposed utility infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, the removal of farmland from the protection of agricultural conservation easements through eminent domain threatens the integrity of the agricultural conservation easement program and those preservation officials who represent the protective restrictive covenants conveyed to the County and Commonwealth and could further undermine future negotiation of conservation easements on behalf of the County of York; and,

WHEREAS, Transource of Pennsylvania, LLC has not provided any independent study, analysis or explanation for possible alternative routes for the proposed project which does not impair agriculturally preserved lands ; and

WHEREAS, agriculturally preserved and other viable agricultural lands benefit all citizens of York County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, there exists within the vicinity of the proposed project route established transmission line easements with existing utility infrastructure which can be utilized or upgraded for the proposed project rather than the seizure by eminent domain of new easements from private property owners for the project; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57, Subchapter G, Approval of the Siting and Construction of the transmission line requires the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and PJM to provide a cost to benefit ratio and consider the recommendations of local governing bodies in which the proposed project is located; and,

WHEREAS, the citizens and residents of York County, Pennsylvania have expressed with united voice and unanimous objection the proposed power transmission line project; and,

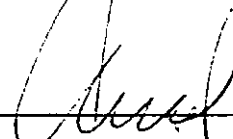
WHEREAS, the York County Board of Commissioners have conferred with legal counsel and unanimously approved a statement of objection until more stringent criteria can more fully evaluate and confirm the impact of the proposed project to the region and thereby ensure the project is within the best interests of the citizens of York County, Pennsylvania.

NOW THEREFORE , BE IT RESOLVED by the York County Board of Commissioners hereby recommend that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission deny the Project by Transource of Pennsylvania, LLC for the construction of a proposed 230 KV power transmission line in York County until such time unknown impacts are determined.

ATTEST:

  
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President Commissioner, Susan Byrnes

  
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Vice President Commissioner, Doug Hoke

  
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Commissioner, Christopher Reilly