

April 8, 2008

Dear Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee Members,

I am writing you today to ask respectfully that you vote "No" on HB-1007. I personally have reviewed this bill and can only conclude that this does not address any of the issues facing the thousands of landowners affected by the proposed Prairie Falcon Parkway Express; however it will grant this particular private company immunity from landowners seeking reprieve via a lawsuit. It will not allow those affected to recoup the true values of their homes and property prior to the toll road being introduced. In addition, it will prevent landowners from seeking appropriate compensation for other costs associated with the toll road being built including, moving expenses, closing costs acquired with the purchase of a new home, commission costs to realtors and the general inconvenience of being forced to relocate families and livestock.

As a landowner included in the 3-mile wide corridor, we have been adversely affected for almost 3 years with no progress made by Mr. Ray Wells and his associates. During the summer of 2006, we received a certified letter stating that we "may" be affected by the proposed toll road. Since that date, we have received no notification, updates or information pertaining to the progress or steps being taken with the project. The landowners have been left completely in the dark, while we have watched our home values decline 25%. This has caused a great deal of stress and uncertainty upon families throughout the state. We are essentially being held hostage until this project is completely rejected or is forced to move forward. We have all been left wondering if we will live with this unrest for many years to come.

My husband and I have been actively trying to sell our home for more than a year now in hopes of relocating so we may be able to get settled in another location without the stress of the toll road. We have a young child to consider and have put off expanding our family until we can relocate to an area in which we will be able to settle down and raise our children. The proposed toll road has affected our "life" plan in a very negative manner. We have been unable to sell our home due to the toll road and as I will mention again, "We are being held hostage until they are forced to move forward or eliminate the plan". During the period in which we have had our home on the market, we have not had one scheduled showing. The only individuals that have looked at our home, I have personally pulled in off of the street. While in discussions with the individuals, I made mention of the toll road as that is the responsible thing to do. Their response was to politely thank me and leave. The toll road specifically is preventing home sales in our area and rightfully so. I know of neighbors who also presently have their homes on the market and have been unable to sell them. This has been directly linked to the toll road as some of them have had offers and the buyers have backed out due to the toll road. Some neighbors have been forced into foreclosure, because they did not have the time or the financial resources to wait any longer.

While my home has been on the market, I have emailed realtors that have put our listing on their web site and posed as a potential buyer. The responses I have received have been extremely negative, warning any potential buyers of the toll road and describing the area as a "Buyer

Beware" region. Realtors are being negatively affected as well due to large drops in home sales in the area and are forced to be extremely cautious about involving themselves in any sales associated with the proposed corridor.

Given the examples and information provided above, why would a bill such as HB1007 be passed? It will only cripple the thousands of homeowners already being negatively affected not only financially, but emotionally as well. Granting a private company immunity from being forced to do the right thing is not what this country is about.

The landowners involved in this situation are being affected by no fault of their own, by a private company that wants to steal individual's homes and investments. For some, their homes and land are all that they have. Their life's work and investment is solely in their property that they work hard day after day to hang on to. Voting "Yes" on HB1007 would only perpetuate a growing problem of landowners being forced from their homes and being robbed blind of their investments. As an individual, all I ask is that you personally consider how this would affect you if your home were in this corridor? Would you vote "Yes" on a bill that would allow you no recourse when a private company comes in and uproots your family and takes your home? Another question to consider, "Would you come and purchase a home in this corridor"? My guess is the answer would be a unanimous "No" and that is what we hope your vote will be on HB1007.

My Sincerest Thanks,

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