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Farm Bureau Addresses Transmission Line Controversy
(KNZA)--Kansas Farm Bureau has entered the debate regarding the controversial Grain Belt Express Clean Line transmission project.

In an emailed opinion piece, the non-profit agriculture advocacy organization says the transmission line could mean an economic boon for southwestern Kansas, if it successfully brings 1,000 wind towers into operation.

However, the organization also says thousands of farmers and ranchers who live and work along the proposed route of the project may need to alter their practices if the transmission line is built along their property.

The line would pass through four local counties including Marshall, Nemaha, Brown and Doniphan.

Kansas Farm Bureau says options should include minimal impact on landowners and create positive long term relationships between agriculture and industry.

Mike Irvin, Farm Bureau Legislative Counsel, says compensation for land use should be based on the property's fair market value and paid annually; and, if lines impact farming operations, those expenses should be included with compensation for the property.

Irvin also says grassland and crop damage resulting from the project must be restored and compensated.

The news release also raises the question of unintended consequences, saying there's been no discussion regarding the impact or location of generator lead lines that will connect wind towers with the conversion station. Additionally, it cites the lack of restrictions that would prevent other power generation companies from accessing the line or to prevent power produced out of state from connecting with the project as a concern.

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