

Testimony For SB0737

Honorable Senators

Please enter an unfavorable report for SB0737.

I support

- Prohibiting certain persons from exercising a right of condemnation to acquire property for the purpose of constructing a power line or a generating station that produces electricity from wind energy or solar energy; and
- prohibiting the State or any of its instrumentalities or political subdivisions from acquiring by condemnation property that is encumbered by certain conservation easements or will be used for the construction of a power line or a certain generating station.

There should be a stringent process to follow before using eminent domain to acquire property for constructing power lines or power plants. It is too easy for large companies to claim that their desired solution is the best and that private property is taken to achieve it.

These companies must show what other alternatives existed and show how they did the cost benefit analyses for each alternative and the basis for their assumptions.

If eminent domain is proven to be the only solution, then those who have their property taken must be given just compensation and not the inadequate amounts given in the past. There must be a stringent process for the property valuation as well. Eminent domain proceedings should be made as difficult as possible to provide incentives to find alternate solutions.

In some situations, condemnation should not be allowed such as taking farmland. That's why I believe this bill is a good start on improving these situations, so please enter a favorable report for SB0737

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