**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Opposition to National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor through Oklahoma Continues to Grow: Payne County Commissioners Will Hold Public Meeting December 9**

The Board of Payne County Commissioners will hold a public meeting on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Payne County Expo Center, Heritage Hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to obtain additional public input from residents about the impact of proposed NIETC (National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor) designations through the state of Oklahoma, including Payne County.

On November 12, 2024, the Board of Payne County Commissioners passed Resolution #2024-281, which details its opposition to NIETC corridors, created by the Department of Energy in accordance with outgoing President Joe Biden’s goal, created by executive order, to transition America's electric power to 100% renewable sources by 2035, representing wide swaths of wind and solar operations.

The Resolution outlines the reasons why the proposed energy corridors would be manifestly harmful to Oklahoma residents, and Payne County Commissioners are working with other Oklahoma counties that also stand in opposition to what they believe is the illegal use of eminent domain by the federal government.

One Payne County resident, Rebecca Parrack, formed the group “Payne County SOS – Save Our Sunsets/Stop Massive NIETC Corridor” in September. Since November 12, membership in the group has grown from 865 to 1.4K.

Parrack says, “The DOE NIETC corridors do not meet any Oklahoma energy needs. In addition, the power generated by the proposed NIETC is planned to be transferred out of state, and the plan is not economically self-supporting. DOE NIETC is taking decision making away from state and local governments and placing it at the federal level, to the disadvantage of both property owners and Oklahoma’s elected officials.”

Cimarron Links is a private, for-profit company that is receiving federal subsidies to develop High Voltage Direct Current Transmission Lines, not a public utility serving end user customers. However, projects are already underway, and Cimarron Links is moving very fast and using the threat of eminent domain against property owners.”

“As our duly elected county officials stated in Resolution 2024-281: ‘This political agenda, and the resulting NIETC proposals, would create national sacrifice zones, areas where the increase in electric power is not needed, but where vast tracts of private land, including highly productive agricultural land, might be taken.”

MEDIA CONTACT:

Rebecca Parrack

918-850-8067

Rebecca.parrack.sbcglobal.net