

1 APPEARANCES:

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3 KARA J. HARRIS, FERC, Environmental Project Manager

4 JOHN PECONOM, FERC

5 JENNIFER WARD

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1 Chelsea, Michigan

2 Thursday, November 20, 2014

3 About 6:00 p.m.

4 MS. HARRIS: Good evening, everyone. On
5 behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, I
6 would like to welcome you here tonight. The primary
7 purpose of this meeting is to give you an opportunity to
8 comment on the Rover Pipeline Project planned by Rover
9 Pipeline, LLC. My name is Kara Harris, and I'm an
10 Environmental Project Manager in FERC's Office of Energy
11 Projects. John Peconom to my left is also with FERC.
12 Jennifer Ward to my right is a project manager with
13 Cardinal. Cardinal is an environmental consulting firm
14 assisting us in the production of our environmental
15 impact statement for EIS that will be prepared for the
16 project.

17 As you can see, this meeting is being recorded
18 by a court reporter so that we can have an accurate
19 record of tonight's comments. A transcript of this
20 meeting will be placed in the public record so that
21 everyone has access to the information discussed here
22 tonight.

23 As an agenda for tonight's meeting, I will
24 start off by briefly explaining who FERC is and our
25 application process. I will then have a Rover

1 representative present an overview of their project, and
2 following Rover's presentation, we will then hear from
3 those of you who signed up to speak at the table in the
4 hallway and make formal comments on the project. If we
5 have time at the end of the meeting, anyone who did not
6 sign up or would like to have their comments heard will
7 have an opportunity to speak at that time.

8 I would like to begin by describing FERC.
9 FERC is an independent agency that, among other things,
10 regulates interstate transmission of natural gas. We
11 review proposals and authorize construction of
12 interstate natural gas pipelines, storage facilities,
13 and liquified natural gas terminals. As a Federal
14 licensing agency, the FERC has a responsibility under
15 the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA to
16 consider potential environmental impact associated with
17 the jurisdictional project. With regard to the Rover
18 Pipeline Project, the FERC is the lead Federal agency
19 for the NEPA review and the preparation of the
20 environmental impact statement. The Commission is made
21 up of five members who are appointed by the President
22 and approved by the Senate. The Commission staff, which
23 includes me and John, prepares technical information to
24 assist the commissioners in the making of their
25 decisions.

1 When a company wants to build a pipeline
2 facility to transport and sell natural gas in interstate
3 commerce, the company files an application with the
4 Commission. Rover plans to file their application in
5 the first quarter of 2015 and is requesting the
6 Commission Certificate of Public Convenience and
7 Necessity by the end of next year. It is important for
8 everyone to understand that the proposed project was not
9 conceived by and is not promoted by the FERC or our
10 cooperating agencies. The FERC staff reviews
11 applications for authority to build and operate
12 interstate natural gas pipelines, and Rover is in the
13 process of routing their pipelines and preparing an
14 application to submit to FERC. Once the application is
15 submitted, our obligation is to review that application
16 and prepare an analysis of environmental impact.

17 Tonight's meeting is not a public hearing. We
18 are not here to debate the proposal or to make any
19 determinations on its fate. We are here to listen to
20 your concerns so that we can consider them in our
21 analysis of the natural and human environmental impacts
22 of the project and how those impacts might be reduced or
23 avoided.

24 If there is an objection or support for the
25 project or other nonenvironmental issue concerning the

1 proposal, those issues will be considered by the
2 Commission in its determination of the project's public
3 convenience and necessity but it is generally considered
4 outside of the scope of the environmental analysis. In
5 other words, the Commission wants to hear your
6 objections or your support of the project, but they will
7 not be addressed in detail in the environmental impact
8 statement.

9 During our review of the project we will
10 assemble information from a variety of sources including
11 the applicant, the public, other state, local, and
12 Federal agencies, and our own independent analysis and
13 field work. So I'll briefly explain our environmental
14 review.

15 Process. We are currently near the beginning
16 of our environmental process. Rover entered into the
17 first prefiling process on June 27 of this year which
18 began our review of the project. The purpose of the
19 prefiling process is to encourage involvement of all
20 stakeholders in a manner that allows for the early
21 identification and resolution of environmental issues.
22 The FERC docket number for this project is PF14-14. The
23 PF means prefiling and no formal application has been
24 submitted at FERC. Once Rover files a formal
25 application, a new docket number will be assigned with a

1 CP docket number designation. The goal of prefiling is
2 to get information from the public as well as agencies
3 and other groups so that we can incorporate all
4 substantive issues of concern into our review.

5 On November 4th of this year, FERC issued a
6 Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact
7 statement or NOI for the Rover Pipeline Project and
8 initiated a scoping or comment period. The NOI was
9 mailed to over 16,000 stakeholders and describes the
10 environmental review process, some already identified
11 environmental issues, and the steps that FERC and the
12 cooperating agencies will take to prepare the EIS. So
13 far the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S.
14 Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife
15 Service, and the State of Ohio Environmental Protection
16 Agency, have agreed to be cooperating agencies with FERC
17 in the preparation of the EIS. Additional Federal,
18 State, and local government agencies with jurisdiction
19 by law or special expertise are welcome to cooperate as
20 well. We have set an ending date of December 18, 2014
21 for the scoping period. However, that does not mean
22 that we do not accept comments after that date. The
23 earlier we get your information the better, and we can
24 begin our analysis on your concerns. We do take
25 comments throughout our entire process, it's just the

1 earlier we get them the better, preferably by the
2 December 18th date.

3 After we issue our draft EIS, we'll have
4 another comment period, and we'll have more meetings
5 similar to tonight's meeting. Extra copies of our NOI
6 and other project handouts are located at the table in
7 the hallway outside of this room. A speaker list is
8 also located at that table. We will use that list to
9 call speakers to the podium tonight. If you wish to
10 speak but have not signed up, please add your name to
11 the list. In addition to verbal comments provided
12 tonight, we will also accept your written comments. If
13 you have comments but do not wish to speak, you may
14 provide your written comments on the comment forms or
15 your own paper if you already have them written out at
16 the table in the hallway. You may drop them off to us
17 or mail them in at a later date. The goal would be to
18 include the docket number PF14-14 and your comments to
19 ensure that we and the project team get your
20 information.

21 Your comments tonight together with any
22 written comments you have already filed or intend to
23 file will be added to the official record of the
24 proceedings. We then take all of the comments and
25 address the natural and human environmental issues, and

1 utilizing all available information and expertise factor
2 them into our independent analysis of the project's
3 potential impacts. We will publish those findings in a
4 draft EIS which will then be distributed for a minimum
5 45-day comment period, and that's where the comment
6 meetings that I previously mentioned will occur. And we
7 will announce those and have those mailed and issued so
8 that you'll be aware of them prior to the meeting.

9 At the end of the draft EIS comment period,
10 FERC staff will prepare final EIS that specifically
11 addresses each comment received on the draft EIS and
12 includes all necessary changes, additions, and
13 modifications to conclusions reached in the draft EIS.

14 The final EIS will be considered by the
15 Commission in its determination of whether to authorize
16 the project and, if so, under what conditions.
17 Currently, again, our mailing list is over 16,000
18 stakeholders. If you received a copy of our NOR, then
19 you are already on our mailing list. If you have --
20 you'll see at the back the return mailer, and if you
21 would like to correct your address or remove your name
22 from the mailing list, we'll be happy to take those and
23 address your address. And please note because of the
24 size of the mailing list, a copy of the environmental
25 impact statement you'll receive in the mail will be on a

1 CD-rom.

2 We have asked a representative from Rover,
3 Mark Vedral, to provide a brief project summary. Mark.

4 MR. VEDRAL: Good evening. My name is Mark
5 Vedral, and I am a senior manager with the Rover
6 Pipeline Project. First of all, I'd like to say thank
7 you to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for
8 allowing me this time to speak to all of you tonight.
9 Also, I'd like to thank all of the members of the
10 community, the land owners, and everyone that's in
11 attendance for joining us to discuss the Rover project.

12 First off, there's four objectives that I'd
13 like to cover tonight. First is the project overview.
14 Secondly is to discuss the purpose and the need of the
15 project. Thirdly is what you can expect from Rover and
16 our commitment to you and to the community. And,
17 lastly, to discuss the project timeline.

18 Project Overview. First about the project.
19 We filed with FERC in July requesting FERC to approve
20 our development of the Rover Project. In the pre-filing
21 process we proposed the Rover Pipeline, a new interstate
22 pipeline system to transport domestically produced
23 natural gas from the Marcellus and Utica Shale
24 formations located in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and
25 Ohio to the markets in the U.S. and Canada.

1 The Rover pipeline is being designed to
2 transport 3.25 billion cubic feet of gas per day. The
3 natural gas through these various pipelines is
4 approximately a distance of 830 miles and consists of
5 the various diameters of 24-inch, 30-inch, 36-inch, and
6 42-inch. Rover is also proposing to build compressor
7 and metering stations along this route in Ohio, West
8 Virginia, and Pennsylvania -- below the pipeline has
9 plans to build 10 compressor stations to produce 210,000
10 horsepower to move the gas to market.

11 In our filing we propose that nearly all, 80
12 percent of the pipeline will be on agricultural land,
13 and parallels existing pipelines, power lines, and
14 roads. And for the construction of the pipeline Rover
15 has committed to utilize union labor resources
16 exclusively to construct the pipeline based upon the
17 large presence of available resources in the region and
18 the union's high quality craftsmanship and past
19 performance for safety, reliability, and quality
20 performance.

21 Now, for the purpose of the meeting. I'd like
22 to make three points on the project's purpose and need.
23 The Rover pipeline will provide a reliable long-term
24 supply of clean natural gas from abundant fields in the
25 Marcellus and Utica Shale formations, the first major

1 new interstate of its kind originating from this area
2 and then transporting gas to the West and Canada. Today
3 Michigan is the 9th largest consumer of natural gas in
4 the United States. And, also, Michigan is the 17th
5 largest producer. This leaves it to be a net importer
6 of natural gas to supply its need for businesses,
7 manufacturers, and residential consumers. 78 percent of
8 the gas moved through the Rover Pipeline will be used by
9 customers on the U.S. segments of the pipeline including
10 multiple interconnections with third-party pipes in
11 Defiance, Ohio to reach customers in the greater
12 Midwest, Michigan, and Gulf Coast and multiple takeout
13 points in Michigan that will interconnect with local
14 distribution systems serving customers throughout the
15 State.

16 Right now there aren't enough pipelines to
17 move the gas from production regions to market. Natural
18 gas production is forecast to increase by 44 percent by
19 2040 but not from traditional supply areas. For
20 example, historic supplies from the Gulf of Mexico are
21 down 46 percent over the past five years. This has left
22 existing pipes underutilized and in some instances
23 empty. The new gas that will replace the historic
24 supplies is mostly going to originate from the Marcellus
25 and Utica Shales where pipelines such as Rover will

1 carry this abundant use supply to market. The Rover
2 pipeline will provide a much needed supply source to the
3 region who is dependent upon out-of-state production to
4 meet its supply needs.

5 Lastly, we announce the Rover pipeline is
6 fully subscribed demonstrating significant demand. This
7 means that we have received significant interest in
8 long-term use of the Rover line, multiple 15 to 20-year
9 contracts to transport natural gas through the Rover
10 Pipeline. The Rover Pipeline will provide access to a
11 much needed new source of natural gas in the United
12 States continuing to reduce our reliance upon foreign
13 energy sources.

14 What you can expect from Rover in our
15 commitment to you. First, our construction and safety
16 commitment. Rover Pipeline will meet or exceed all
17 required safety systems and be constructed and operated
18 in accordance with all applicable State and Federal
19 standards. Construction will include a visual and non-
20 destructive x-ray inspection of every weld that joins
21 sections of pipe together. The pipeline will be tested
22 with water under higher than normal pressure and
23 regulation devices will be installed to prevent pressure
24 from exceeding safe limits. Rover Pipeline will have
25 automated valves installed to shut off the flow of gas

1 in case of an emergency. The pipeline will receive
2 regular integrity testing and be monitored 24 hours a
3 day, seven days a week, 365 days a year by a full-time
4 gas control and operating maintenance staff.

5 For the footprint and pipe coverage, as a
6 company, it is Rover Pipeline's expectation that our
7 efforts minimize disruptions and leave no long-term
8 footprint. As an operating principle, we work with
9 individual land owners to make accommodations and to
10 achieve full restoration of impacting land.

11 We also work to provide on-the-ground
12 mitigation and restoration services along the route to
13 protect the land.

14 As for pipe coverage, for agricultural lands,
15 we will bury the pipe to a minimum of 4 feet of coverage
16 from the top of the pipe to the surface of the ground to
17 be a minimum of 3-foot of cover in non ag lands and a
18 minimum of 5-foot of cover below streams, ditches, and
19 water bodies.

20 When it comes to the purchasing of easements,
21 the permanent and temporary easements for Rover it is
22 their preference to reach a mutual contractual agreement
23 with impacted land owners to obtain these easements.
24 The easement along the single pipeline routes requires
25 50 feet of permanent easements and the temporary

1 construction work space of an additional 25 to 100 feet
2 depending on site specific conditions. We will work to
3 develop easement agreements that meet each land owner's
4 individual needs. We know your land is a valuable
5 natural resource, and the care with which we treat land
6 and top soil is our utmost priority.

7 Now, for the project timeline. Following the
8 FERC public scope meetings, we anticipate filing a FERC
9 certificate application in January 2015 that will
10 undergo public input and comment. We intend to work
11 closely with FERC to provide any additional data or
12 information and are hopeful that FERC will issue its
13 certificate and make construction authorization in the
14 first quarter of 2016. We would expect that a portion
15 of the pipeline would be in operations by December
16 of 2016, and the remainder of the pipeline in service by
17 June 2017.

18 In conclusion, it is our intent to live up to
19 our promises of openness, respect, and integrity during
20 every step of this process from permitting and
21 construction through long-term operation and
22 maintenance. Please make note again of the project
23 toll-free number for land owner questions:
24 1-888-844-3718. Again, thank you to everybody for
25 having the opportunity to be here, and thanks again to

1 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

2 MS. HARRIS: Thank you, Mark.

3 Representatives from Rover will be available
4 after the formal meeting is adjourned to answer your
5 questions. We are going to move into the part of the
6 meeting where we'll hear directly from you. John
7 Peconom will lead you with that. I want to take a
8 moment for people standing to come in and find seats
9 while we transition.

10 MR. PECONOM: Don't be shy. Come on down,
11 whoever is leaning against the lights especially.

12 Good evening, everyone. My name is John
13 Peconom, and Kara has asked me to facilitate this
14 evening's comments. We have a list of speakers that
15 have signed up in the back of the room. After we go
16 through the list of speakers, if someone wishes to speak
17 at that time, we will go ahead and open it back up for
18 additional speakers. If you're not a public speaker and
19 still would like to submit comments, there are comment
20 forms in the back as well as information provided by us
21 that will explain to you how you can send us comments
22 either through the internet or through the U.S. Mail.
23 All comments are treated equally.

24 As Kara mentioned before, the purpose of
25 tonight's meeting is to hear your comments, so before we

1 do that, I'd like to set up a few ground rules for
2 tonight's comments. If anybody has a cell phone on,
3 please put it on silent or vibrate. When your name is
4 called, please come up to the front of the podium, state
5 your name for the record. I will point out that as the
6 Chair said earlier, again, the record is being -- or
7 tonight's comments are being recorded for the record.
8 It will help the transcriber immensely if you can spell
9 your name and any affiliation that you may have. We
10 have a large crowd tonight, 30 people have signed up to
11 speak. In order to go through and give everyone an
12 opportunity to speak and get out of here at a reasonable
13 time tonight, I'd ask that you try to limit your
14 comments to five minutes. There is some flexibility,
15 that in order to get everybody out in two hours, 5
16 minutes is about what we can do.

17 So with that, I'll go ahead and start with the
18 first speaker. Mr. Greg Gillette.

19 MR. GILLETTE: Good evening. Thank you for
20 being here. My name is Greg Gillette. My mother is
21 Virginia. My brother is Kurt Gillette. And we are land
22 owners. We have a farm on Beach and Northland Center
23 Road in Lima Township. It also borders on 4 Mile Lake.
24 The farm has been in our family since at least 1893. My
25 grandfather started renting boats on 4 Mile Lake back in

1 the 1920s. It's a great little fishing lake, and it's
2 about a quarter of a mile from the proposed pipeline.
3 Back in the 1950s he started a summer campground trailer
4 park which has been in operation ever since. The farm
5 that we own also is in production, and the proposed
6 pipeline goes through 38 of our acres. We do not farm
7 it ourselves, we rent it and have for many years. The
8 pipeline is proposed to go diagonally through a 24-acre
9 hay field, at this point it's going into oats, from what
10 I understand, but it would totally cut off the entire
11 field. The other part of the pipeline goes across Beach
12 Road and goes across the entrance to a cornfield
13 presently.

14 Our history with the pipeline is that we got a
15 letter in the summer asking for permission to survey.
16 That was the first indication we had that anything was
17 being proposed. When we got that, we said, well, no, we
18 don't want that. So we didn't send it in. We
19 eventually got contacted by one of the land agents. He
20 came, after having missed the first appointment, he came
21 unprepared, came off as a snake oil salesman, hey, I've
22 got the checkbook in my hand, we can make a deal right
23 now. We hadn't the foggiest idea what he was talking
24 about. We eventually were able to get a proposed map.
25 We did give a -- sign a permission for them to survey

1 the land. We put a provision in there that they must
2 inform us when they were going to be on the land. That
3 never happened. There was one time I was putting up no
4 hunting signs and discovered 19 people on our land and
5 seven vehicles. We had no prewarning on that. We are
6 now on our fifth land agent. We don't know who to talk
7 to anymore. We call various landing agents that we have
8 the cards for. Our calls don't get returned. We don't
9 know who these people are anymore. We went to the
10 meeting at the Lima Township Hall where it was a working
11 meeting between the company and our local
12 representatives. What we heard from them to our
13 representatives was pretty much what we heard tonight
14 from this representative. When our representatives
15 asked very specific questions like who is the
16 subscription of this gas -- who's going to -- who's
17 going to be taking the gas, they were unwilling to say
18 who has subscribed to this gas, so we don't know where
19 it's going. What they're saying is, oh, it's going to
20 come to Michigan. We don't know that. My father worked
21 for Consumers Power Company, now Consumers Energy, his
22 entire career. I am not anti-energy. It got me through
23 school and grad school; it's okay. But what we don't
24 want is somebody who is coming in with incompetence and
25 arrogance saying that we have the right to do this and

1 it doesn't matter what you say or what you think.

2 We have been good stewards of our land for
3 over 100 years. To have someone come and say we need
4 your land doesn't make sense to us. We do not believe
5 that this company is being honest with us. They say
6 they're being transparent, but they won't be transparent
7 with our local representatives. They say that the land
8 agents are our agents and they will work for us. No.
9 They're working for them, and we don't know who to talk
10 to anymore. And, I'm sorry, a 1-800 number doesn't
11 really quite cut it.

12 We feel that we are not getting the right
13 answers for our needs. What we are getting is a bunch
14 of hubris and it's frustrating. We feel that we can
15 take care of our land as well, if not better, than these
16 folks. We don't trust them. I urge the Commission not
17 to trust them, either. Whatever they give you, look
18 with skepticism. It's not going to be to our best
19 interests, it's going to be towards their own best
20 interests. And I'm not sure that it's going to turn out
21 well. Thank you for your time.

22 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Gillette.

23 As a reminder, when you're called up to speak,
24 please state your name and spell it for the transcriber.

25 Miss Sandy Hamilton-Tilly.

1 MS. HAMILTON TILLY: Hello. My name is Sandra
2 Hamilton Tilly, H-a-m-i-l-t-o-n-T-i-l-l-y. Thank you
3 for giving us this opportunity to speak, and I speak on
4 behalf of my mother, Shirley Roller, she has 113 acres
5 in Washtenaw County here, Manchester Township on Schwab
6 Road. Our concern started when I came home one day to
7 find surveyors on the land, and I asked my mom what they
8 were doing, and she said, well, you know, I didn't tell
9 anyone because I didn't have a choice. My mother is 89
10 years old, and they told her that she needed to have the
11 signed permission to survey or else they would take her
12 to court. So she allowed them to survey. She has asked
13 them not to come back on the property, and they have
14 come back on many times. I have called and contacted
15 FERC asking for some results of the survey, and I just
16 get a run-around saying that we'll have to talk to our
17 supervisor. I just would like to know what they did
18 find on the land. And I was told that I would be
19 notified if there were any historic sites or prehistoric
20 artifacts.

21 I think I want to speak to the fact of this
22 integrity that the Rover representative spoke of. I
23 think they lost integrity with a lot of the people here
24 in Washtenaw County, I think I can speak on their
25 behalf, because of their methods and the way and their

1 dishonesty. They haven't been truthful. They did not
2 let our local Township officials know what was going on.
3 When questioned about that, they told us that they don't
4 have to by law contact the Township officials, but
5 wouldn't it have been nice in this rural area to have
6 let them know, because the Township officials were going
7 to be questioned as to what was going on, and they
8 didn't know.

9 We were brought on board late in the game
10 evidently from a letter that we received. We missed the
11 open houses, and Rover apologized for that. They didn't
12 have our address, or I don't know what their excuse was.
13 I think perhaps it might have been because the pipeline
14 moved, I'm not certain. Also, the fact of necessity, we
15 keep hearing different percentages of how much of the
16 gas is actually going to be utilized here in Michigan.
17 It seems to me that the bulk of it is going to Canada,
18 so we don't really have any idea of the necessity and
19 the common good for them to go through and rape our
20 wooded land, and this area is very proud of their wooded
21 property. People in Washtenaw County do pay higher
22 taxes, and they do so for a reason. They work hard to
23 keep their land because they want to live in this rural
24 area. Putting a 42-inch pipe through these woods, you
25 aren't going to replace those hardwood trees. On our

1 property you are not going to be able to replace those
2 old apple trees or the new apple trees that are used to
3 produce cider. And the question is for how long will
4 the gas be going through this pipeline? At some point
5 this pipeline will probably be abandoned and we will be
6 left with a woods that no longer was the woods we knew
7 and we grew up with.

8 There is the safety issue. Yes, we are a
9 rural area, but there are many homes that are involved
10 and are in the path of this pipeline, and I do not blame
11 those people for being fearful. We are also concerned
12 in regards to the safety as far as how often is this
13 pipeline going to be checked? We are considered a
14 Class 4, which I understand because we're a rural area
15 that the welds may not be checked as often, and maybe I
16 need to be enlightened on that.

17 At any rate, I think you'll find when you read
18 on the FERC comments that the majority, if not all, of
19 the townships in this County have passed resolutions,
20 they are supporting their constituents, we do not want
21 this pipeline, we do not believe it's for the common
22 good of the people here. Thank you.

23 MS. HARRIS: Thank you.

24 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

25 Mr. John Bulick.

1 MR. BULICK: My name is John Bulick. It's
2 pronounced with hard "u." You think of the car and put
3 an "l" in the middle, that's it; although I work for
4 Ford, so I shouldn't say that.

5 I am a land owner in the area being
6 questioned, and I'm probably not as much affected as
7 some of the people in the area, so, you know, I could
8 say I'm not really concerned. However, I do feel for
9 the people whose land is being invaded. I think what we
10 have here is a couple big disparities. One is a
11 question of the need for this pipeline. My
12 understanding is Canada has not even requested it. DTE
13 and Consumers Power, our major suppliers, have not
14 requested it, they have their own sources. So I
15 question the need. Where did all this come from? Who
16 came up with it? It just seems like -- and I've read in
17 some other documents that there are 57 other pipeline
18 companies that you people are reviewing in addition to
19 about eight that already exist for supplying fuel into
20 Canada. The statement was made earlier by your rep that
21 this is a move to limit our dependence on foreign oil.
22 Is Canada a foreign country or is it the U.S.? There's
23 nothing stated about what's coming back here or the
24 benefit we will get. This is not really an American
25 operation.

1 Secondly, we have a pipeline that we're trying
2 to get through on the western side of the U.S. Our
3 President totally is denying any access to that, he said
4 because of environmental concerns. Don't we have an
5 environment here in Michigan? It's the same thing.
6 He's being hypocritical.

7 Now, if you accept this pipeline, you also
8 accept the fact that you're going to put eminent domain.
9 I don't know if anybody really knows what eminent domain
10 is. I happened to pick it up today on Google. And it
11 states two areas of concern to me. One says it must be
12 for a purpose that benefits the general public, not an
13 individual or a corporation. It must be for the general
14 public, and it must be in the area that affects health,
15 welfare of human beings, and property owners' rights.
16 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

17 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Bullick.

18 Mr. Don Laier.

19 MR. LAIER: Good evening, FERC. My name is
20 Don Laier, D-o-n L-a-i-e-r. I'm here to represent Lima
21 Township as the Trustee. The Supervisor was not able to
22 be here. First of all, our Township is very upset.
23 Number one, I get a letter in the mail, my wife and I
24 own a 175-acre dairy farm, and it is centennial, and
25 here we get a letter, well, what the hell's this all

1 about? I call the supervisor. I don't know what you're
2 talking about. The next day I get five letters in the
3 mail because I have five different descriptions of
4 property. The next day I get five more letters in the
5 mail; it's ridiculous. We want to come in and survey
6 it. What for? We don't know what's going on. This
7 company does not have the decency to come to our
8 Township before they go and approach land owners and say
9 we're going to do this, we're going to do that. They
10 want to come in the back door and go out the front.
11 When Enbridge came to Lima Township they notified us in
12 advance. They says we're going to do this, we're going
13 to give you money for your roads, we're going to do
14 existing road repair, and we're going to deal with you
15 people properly. So here we go. We got all of this
16 wear and tear on the roads. It's going to cost our
17 County a lot of money. We're going to have to have
18 existing road repair. It's going to be a safety hazard
19 for school buses, and one thing or another, and we do
20 not want to tolerate this at all.

21 Many farmers here have big investments. They
22 got underground drainage, they got tile lines. Toledo
23 Pipeline came through here, they tore up all the
24 pipelines. So we get in touch with their supervisor in
25 Bay City, he comes over there and we have a tile

1 contractor here. He says we'll repair it. No, it do
2 not work. He said you start from square 1 and you redo
3 it. Coming in and repairing tiling does not work.

4 The other thing I'm here and I'm very bitter
5 about, we had a meeting at our Township with your
6 dignitaries, not yours but from Rover. These people
7 have no respect for us land owners out here. There's
8 elderly people, they come banging on the doors, and
9 we're going to go in there, anyway. So then I hear this
10 rigmarole, there's a certain bunch of farmers in here
11 that refuse to let them in, so they come out there and
12 write them out big checks. What about the rest of the
13 people? Is that treating people fairly? I don't think
14 so. That's about all I got to say and thank you for
15 your time.

16 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Laier.

17 MS. RIGGS MATURO: Hi, my name is Pamela Riggs
18 Maturo, P-a-m-e-l-a R-i-g-g-s M-a-t-u-r-o, and I'm a
19 land owner, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak
20 and have you hear my concerns this evening. First of
21 all, let me just address some previous issues that were
22 brought up, which are the consistent inconsistency of ET
23 Rover and the communication. I have received sporadic
24 communication from them. My questions have not been
25 answered. I do not have a land agent despite having

1 asked for one. No one calls me back. They come to my
2 property and try to breach my property without my
3 permission and without notifying me. Fortunately, a
4 bull deterred them. So from a personal perspective on
5 my land, I bought this property less than two years ago
6 with a dream, and I'll bore you with that right now. I
7 bought it for myself and my two children for very
8 specific reasons. We moved onto that land because of
9 the topographic and environmental aspects of that land,
10 the woods, the streams, the ponds, the spring fed ponds,
11 the pastures, and all of the beauty that went with all
12 of that. Our hope was to live a more sustainable
13 self-sufficient life and feed ourselves on that
14 property. The proposed pipeline would go through my
15 pasture land rendering it unusable from the onset of
16 construction until completion of restoration. We are
17 trying to organically raise grass fed sheep on the
18 property. And so we rely on that pasture to feed our
19 sheep during the summer months. They're very sensitive
20 to parasites and I must have enough land to maintain a
21 rotating grazing system to keep them healthy and well
22 fed. The loss of that land during construction and
23 restoration would result in an economic impact of having
24 to purchase hay to feed them throughout that entire
25 process as well as increased vet bills and deworming

1 medication which is my goal not to use at all, but I'll
2 be required to use that because I won't be able to
3 safely pasture my sheep.

4 In addition, I have trees on that pasture
5 land. The proposed pipeline runs right down the middle
6 of a dozen mature trees that my animals use for shelter
7 during the summer months. If those trees are not there,
8 they're gone, they come in, they run in for shelter, and
9 you may laugh, but you know what that means is me
10 scooping poop for I don't know how many years, so that
11 results in increased labor on my part, and I can
12 guarantee Rover's not going to take that into
13 consideration.

14 In addition, there's a wooded area behind the
15 pasture that we bought that for. I have two children.
16 Lulu is 13 and Paul is 12, and they play in that wooded
17 area in the ponds and in the spring fed pond there. My
18 son has built a fabulous tree fort right in the path of
19 the proposed pipeline.

20 I also hunt in that area. Last year I put
21 three deer in my freezer. This year I have two and I'm
22 expecting more. How will that be impacted?

23 In addition, we have plans to put a mushroom
24 forest in those trees that will be clear cut as a result
25 of that.

1 We have a lot of dreams and a lot of future in
2 that property, and if ET Rover comes through, they're
3 gone.

4 There are at least two streams, two ponds, one
5 of which is spring fed, so it is -- it remains unfrozen
6 throughout the entire winter, and if you were here last
7 winter, you know that was pretty amazing. So it is an
8 incredible wildlife habitat and a resource for all the
9 wildlife in that area, and if you allow ET Rover to go
10 through that property, that'll be gone.

11 Further, as I get older and I'm not able to
12 farm this land for myself, my adjacent property through
13 which the pipeline will be going through is my
14 retirement investment. It's a piece of property that's
15 developable. It's a separate lot. Putting a pipeline
16 through that takes that away, it's gone, and how am I
17 going to recover from that?

18 We all have safety concerns as well. I have
19 not been able to get an answer from ET Rover about what
20 the potential impact radius of this pipeline is. They
21 will not tell me. I do know that they say that it's the
22 maximum allowable operating pressure is 1,200 psi. If
23 you have a 42-inch pipeline with 1,000 psi, I know that
24 the impact radius is 690 feet. My house falls within
25 that potential impact radius. There is a precedent set

1 in the County of Champagne, Illinois. It is a zoning
2 ordinance 4.3.4(h) which states that no use, building,
3 or structure established or built after November 20th,
4 2008, which is when this zoning ordinance was created,
5 shall be located within a pipeline in path radius except
6 as provided in Paragraph 4.3.4(h).4. And that basically
7 says that if a lot is pre-existing, a homeowner can
8 build a house there, but they must have informed choice.
9 Informed choice means that they are notified that there
10 is a pipeline on their property, they are notified of
11 the potential impact radius of that pipeline, and they
12 are given the contact information for the pipeline
13 owner. If a pipeline goes through my property, my
14 house will sit within that PIR. My children's bedrooms
15 will be 120 feet from that pipeline. I do not have
16 informed choice. So I encourage you to consider
17 complete condemnation of any property whose home falls
18 within the potential impact radius of that pipeline.

19 Everyone talks of the safety of this pipeline,
20 and I really tried to make it through 6 49 CFR 192.103,
21 but I'll tell you it's really long. I tried to figure
22 out whether my house would be in a Class 1, Class 2,
23 Class 3 location, and I can't figure that out. I also
24 can't figure out how that would impact the safety of my
25 family. How often will that pipeline be checked based

1 on the classification of my property? How thick will be
2 the pipe be based on the classification of my property?
3 And if anyone can answer those questions for me, I'd
4 really appreciate it.

5 And then, finally, I have to give credit to
6 Cynthia -- (inaudible) -- and her interview of, oh,
7 what's her name, Julie Metty Bennett, who just recently
8 published a report on the state of power in -- of our
9 power in the State of Michigan, and what I want to
10 understand is how much of this gas is staying in the
11 State of Michigan? Mr. -- whatever his name is -- I
12 can't remember his name from ET Rover -- said that
13 3.25 billion cubic feet a day will be put through this
14 pipeline, 78 percent will remain in the U.S., I'm not
15 getting consistent numbers on that, but he said only 600
16 million cubic feet of that would be in the State of
17 Michigan. The State of Michigan is poised to lose nine
18 coal power plants by 2016. We're trending towards more
19 efficient energy, we're trending toward renewable energy
20 resources, but the fact of the matter is that we need
21 base -- I can't remember what they're called, sorry --
22 but we need consistent reliable sources of power, and
23 what this paper that was published says is that we're
24 going to be relying on natural gas in the State of
25 Michigan in those replacement power plants. And if we

1 are building a pipeline to export all of our gas to
2 Canada, we're being awfully shortsighted when in 2016 we
3 could lose the ability to power over 11 million homes in
4 the United States. So I challenge FERC, and I also
5 challenge our representatives in the State of Michigan
6 to please look ahead and look toward our issue of energy
7 needs within the State of Michigan before we approve a
8 pipeline that's going to be transporting energy outside
9 of the United States. And I guess this again addresses
10 the issue of an eminent domain, and how can we -- how
11 can you say that a pipeline that's going to be
12 transporting this fuel to another country through my
13 backyard and benefiting a corporation and not my
14 community can possibly fall under the auspices of
15 eminent domain. Thank you.

16 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

17 Mr. Karl Klement.

18 MR. KLEMENT: Hi. Name is Karl Klement, first
19 name with a K, and last name K-l-e-m-e-n-t. I'm not
20 impacted quite as much as some of these previous land
21 owners. One of my main concerns environmentally
22 speaking is the fact that all pipes generate vibration,
23 okay. As a pipe -- fluid flows through any pipe,
24 vibration's created. How much will that affect nearby
25 homes? Okay. Myself, I am very sensitive to sound.

1 Will this vibration affect me? I get migraines as a
2 result of sound, okay. Will this vibration affect me?
3 Currently summertime, can open the windows, all you hear
4 is tree frogs and crickets. Will I be hearing whistling
5 from a pipe now? Will I be feeling the vibration in my
6 windows because this -- I estimate about a billion cubic
7 feet in my section will be passing through daily, if the
8 numbers are correct by ET Rover. Okay. I don't know.
9 This is something that I believe should be checked out
10 prior to any permits issued, either seismographs on the
11 path that they're proposing to check the current
12 vibration, and check it afterward, and then remediation
13 of some kind or some kind of fund should be put in to
14 say, okay, you have been impacted because of this? All
15 these people are now -- they've lost their quality of
16 their rural life because your vibration is causing this
17 to their home, and that's my main concern other than
18 reiterating the same concerns that everybody else
19 previously said. Thank you.

20 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Klement.

21 Christina Snyder.

22 MS. SNYDER: My name is Christina Snyder,
23 C-h-r-i-s-t-i-n-a S-n-y-d-e-r. I'm going to start by
24 thanking Rover Pipeline for this lovely T-shirt which
25 has now become a billboard for my feelings on the

1 subject, and the back of my shirt reads transporting the
2 last of our natural reserves, natural gas reserves, to
3 foreign markets, thus raising your gas bills and making
4 a sizable profit for the corporation that's going to own
5 the pipeline. It seems to me that -- and I also want to
6 thank all of the good stewards of the land here that
7 this pipeline is going to be crossing and say that we'll
8 try our best to help them through this struggle.

9 It seems to me that looking at the pipeline in
10 isolation is a very serious problem because this
11 pipeline is enabling far more environmental damage than
12 just the pipeline project itself. What it's doing is
13 making new markets available to all the places where
14 there's a fracking gold rush going on. There's --
15 throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana the shale gas is
16 being harvested by fracking, and it -- what passes
17 through the pipeline may be clean, but those fracking
18 chemicals are not. And Rover Pipeline will probably
19 deny that I have any standing to be speaking here
20 tonight because the pipeline is not crossing my property
21 and I'm over 1,000 feet away from it, but, in my
22 opinion, anyone who cares about having an environment
23 with clean water, clean air, land that is not subject to
24 earthquakes caused by the fracking injections, anybody
25 who would like to see a stable climate for future

1 generations and not have our climate moving towards that
2 of Venus has a reason to be concerned about the rise in
3 fracking and natural gas and energy being used.

4 They site that there is a market in Michigan
5 for some of the natural gas that they plan to move
6 through this pipeline, but I put to you that whatever
7 natural gas expansion in the market they're citing could
8 probably -- we could probably meet those needs far
9 cheaper by simply doing conservation measures on
10 existing buildings that are using the gas for heating.
11 I am currently building in Chelsea a zero energy home
12 that will not use any natural gas, it will not -- it
13 will have an annual energy balance of zero in terms of
14 electric use, and the energy for space heating, for
15 domestic water heating, for electricity will be coming
16 from the sun. It can be done here in Michigan, and it's
17 got to be better than the alternative that's being
18 proposed here tonight. So I would really like to see
19 the Federal Government consider the whole picture and
20 not just the pipeline project itself. This is -- you
21 know, the gas is starting in multitude of areas south of
22 here, they're proposing to use eminent domain to seize
23 people's property, to move the gas through the pipeline,
24 and there's a lot of people who don't have any say about
25 the fracking that's being done by their neighbors that

1 can destroy their own property values in those states
2 where the gas is being sourced from, then it moves
3 through our area and damages land of these people here,
4 and then it goes on into Canada, and a lot of it's
5 probably going to be put on ships and shipped overseas,
6 and the whole business of shipping liquid natural gas is
7 not exactly clean, either. I mean there can be quite
8 bad accidents. So I think there are better ways, and I
9 don't think that, like other people have said, there is
10 any way that this project that is going to predominantly
11 benefit markets overseas should qualify for eminent
12 domain. Thank you.

13 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Miss Snyder.

14 Miss Kelly Belknap. I apologize if I
15 mispronounced your name.

16 MS. BELKNAP: Good evening. Again, I thank
17 you as others have for being here to listen to what we
18 have to say. My name is Kelly Belknap, B-e-l-k-n-a-p.
19 I'm here as a land owner that's being drastically
20 impacted, as you heard from others. Again, Rover is
21 proposing to cross our 22 acres of property diagonally
22 across wetlands that they have shown on a recent map
23 wetlands that have been identified by Michigan DNR. I
24 will second and support comments made before me that
25 most of interaction with the representatives of Rover

1 outside of meetings such as this where they are in
2 person and under watch, we have repeatedly tried to
3 reach out to the land rights folks, we have made
4 contacts, we have tried to talk to them. They have not
5 been respectful of land owners. We understand this is
6 business, but there is a certain respect that should be
7 presented to the land owners and that is not happening.

8 We question the necessity of this pipeline
9 coming through the State of Michigan. At a meeting in
10 Lima Township earlier in October a representative from
11 what was then ET Rover, now Rover, made a comment that
12 only 18 percent of the gas coming into Michigan --
13 coming in through Michigan would stay in Michigan. The
14 rest would proceed out to Canada. The representative
15 earlier here stated that they are following existing
16 corridors, paths, roadways, and electrical -- existing
17 corridors. From my home and from some of my neighbors'
18 homes that are sitting here, there's a corridor owned by
19 ET Transfer a mile, about 1.10 miles east of us. I have
20 not seen where there has been any consideration of using
21 that existing corridor. I'm not saying the pipe that's
22 in it, because they say, no, we can't use that because
23 it's not big enough because they want to put a super
24 highway in, but the existing corridor is not being
25 considered at least within Washtenaw County. That is

1 the Panhandle Eastern Pipeline owned by Sunoco that they
2 just purchased.

3 I also argue the necessity because there is
4 another pipeline that is being proposed, Nexus, which is
5 a partnership with Enbridge, DTE Energy of Michigan, and
6 the Ohio Energy Company that has already stated that
7 when they enter Michigan, they will be using existing
8 corridors which I have been able to identify, and they
9 will be connecting to existing pipeline in Ypsilanti
10 area, Washtenaw County, eastern part of this county.
11 They are coming through, they have already reached out,
12 made contact with County Commissioners, something Rover
13 did not do, as they did not contact any of the other
14 representatives, local representatives here in Washtenaw
15 County.

16 Why do we need two new pipelines coming
17 through? Is there really that necessity? Is there that
18 necessity when the -- in December 2013 the U.S. Energy
19 Information Administration states several pipelines
20 cross Michigan on their way to markets in the
21 Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada and
22 satisfies the remainder of the State's natural gas
23 demand, remainder being that which we can't supply for
24 ourselves. We have already been told by the U.S. that
25 our needs are being met. I fully feel that the needs of

1 Rover is for profit, which means that it should not give
2 them the right of eminent domain, because they are
3 wanting to take private property for profit because
4 they're not serving citizens of Michigan as they come
5 into the state. I will not speak for outside of
6 Michigan, but for here they are not doing that.

7 FERC has citing requirements that requires the
8 proposed pipeline to consider alternative routes. We
9 have not seen their proposed -- their preferred and
10 alternative routes, we have seen no consideration of
11 alternative routes. We've seen no consideration of
12 using existing corridors in Washtenaw County. There is
13 one, it's a mile east of my home and my neighbor's home.

14 FERC's citing requirements say avoid wetlands,
15 scenic and recreation lands. The current proposed cross
16 through recognized DNR wetlands on our property, takes
17 out woods, which we've been told they would not replace
18 the trees, they will pay us for them, that's nice, but
19 they would cut down our woods, crossing diagonal on our
20 property. Is that meeting the citing requirements of
21 FERC?

22 We ask you hold them to your citing
23 requirements, that you consider the necessity of a
24 brand-new corridor cutting through woods and wetlands
25 and scenic areas of Michigan, because there is not a

1 necessity, and the U.S. states that, also. Thank you.

2 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Miss Belknap.

3 Miss Diana Newman. Miss Diana Newman?

4 Mr. Jason Eisler?

5 Mr. David Daniel?

6 MR. DANIEL: Hi. I appreciate your being here
7 giving us a chance to express our concerns, you know. I
8 read this notice here that you sent us -- it's David
9 Daniel, D-a-n-i-e-l. I am a land owner representing --
10 I am a family member representing the Jean Littlefield
11 Daniel Trust. We have a small 40-acre parcel down in
12 Freedom Township between Bethel Church Road and Bemis
13 Road. It is zoned residential, it's undeveloped. It is
14 not agricultural land. It has wetlands on it. They're
15 on the National Wetland Inventory Map. There's an
16 unnamed tributary of the River Raisin that traverses it.
17 There is a -- I've had a forest management plan done by
18 the -- I've entered into several contracts with -- I
19 just recently completed a U.S. Fish & wildlife Wetland
20 Restoration Enhancement Project, two projects done
21 simultaneously, and have about 11 acres under contract
22 with USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. I have
23 a prairie native warm season grass and wild flower
24 pollinator mix, prairie habitat going on there, timber
25 stand improvement. I have entered in to try to get some

1 technical assistance with stream bank stabilization and
2 repairing a corridor buffer enhancement. I could go on
3 and on and on. This property was purchased, and I've
4 taken a pretty involved approach to taking care of it
5 and improving it, okay. But when I read this, the thing
6 that kind of was interesting to me is in the second
7 paragraph of the second page of this Notice of Intent to
8 prepare for environmental impact statement, for some
9 reason somebody found it necessary to make it clear that
10 the threat of condemnation was coming along with this.
11 I don't know if that's an intimidation tactic or exactly
12 what it is, but, you know, so the table's set, you know,
13 for some people, and I wasn't really sure, and I
14 appreciate you, you know, kind of being flexible in
15 terms of what can be talked about here, but, you know,
16 this was a little confusing to me, also, currently
17 identified environmental issues. Is eminent domain an
18 environmental issue? I don't know. But as long as
19 other people have been allowed to talk about it, I
20 just -- there's a lot of things here that I'm concerned
21 about and I could spend a lot of time. I've spent
22 sleepless nights thinking about it, but we all know that
23 these pipeline projects that are criss-crossing back and
24 forth across this nation are causing problems. They're
25 wrestling with it in Congress, you're right at the

1 center of it, and I don't envy your position, you know,
2 the decisions that you have to make, I mean it bears an
3 enormous responsibility, in my opinion, when it comes to
4 having the ability to convey the power of eminent domain
5 to in this case a private development company. It's
6 enormous responsibility. I can't imagine how it ever
7 got to be to that point where an independent Federal
8 regulatory agency would be assigned that task. It's
9 amazing to me. I don't think the framers of our
10 constitution ever intended anything like that to happen.
11 I believe it's unconstitutional. I think that -- and
12 I'm not trying to be antagonistic here or anything, but
13 I just feel that it's abusive, and I think it borders on
14 predatory. You have some very, very powerful,
15 financially powerful corporations that are politically
16 connected, pitted against individual land owners along
17 the routes of these pipelines. The way the process is
18 set up, you hand somebody the power of eminent domain
19 and let them enter into the negotiating room, you know,
20 somebody like me is easily overwhelmed. I can't stand
21 toe to toe financially with this company, and when
22 you've already transferred the power of eminent domain
23 over to them, I don't stand a chance, I'm toast.

24 So what are we talking about here? It should
25 be enough if a man or a woman says that they do not want

1 this company to seize their property, that should be
2 enough of a compelling reason for you to consider an
3 alternative. We should not have to be in a position to
4 explain our reasons, and that's what I think what we're
5 doing here, you know. In a free country, land that I
6 own, if I don't want anybody to come in here and do
7 anything on it, it's not for sale, by the way, that's
8 all I need to say is no. I shouldn't have to explain my
9 reasons to anybody, but that's what we're doing. So
10 with that in mind, again, I don't envy your position. I
11 know I wouldn't be comfortable making that judgment.

12 Necessity and convenience? What criteria do
13 you use? I don't know. It can't be enough, it just
14 can't be enough for them to be able to demonstrate
15 logistically that they can pull this off. It just can't
16 be enough. Nor that the gas they bring into the area
17 doesn't negatively impact existing markets. I'm a
18 businessman, I know why they're doing this. It's for
19 this. That's the only reason that ET Transfer exists,
20 Energy Transfer Partners. It's fine. Business that I'm
21 involved in doesn't involve seizing people's private
22 property. That doesn't set well with me.

23 So I don't know what criteria needs to be met
24 in order for you, however you determine that it's in
25 Michigan's -- the people of the State of Michigan or

1 public convenience and necessity, that's just -- it's
2 something I can't wrap my head around how you can
3 determine that in this whole process where we don't get
4 involved other than having to explain our personal
5 reasons for our piece of property here.

6 Moving on to the environment, that's a topic
7 that's near and dear to me. I am a lifelong hunter, an
8 outdoors man, I have hunted and fished throughout
9 Southeastern Michigan all my life, specifically hunting
10 in this area. I have witnessed firsthand the changes in
11 this landscape, modern agricultural practices, believe
12 me, I love the farmers in this area, I'm not a farmer,
13 and I, you know, they're a special breed, but modern
14 agricultural practices have not been without some
15 environmental costs. They have, you know, drained,
16 filled in a lot of wetlands, you know, and the runoff
17 gets directed directly into streams, that's where it
18 goes, that's where the water goes, you know, there's
19 been a lot of farmers that have responded to government
20 programs, WRP CRP trying to, you know, mitigate, trying
21 to reverse some of these trends that apparently this
22 woman here has some expertise in that area. You know,
23 there's -- I did my small part -- trying to control some
24 of the runoff of an ag field to the east of me that's
25 been impacting the stream. So, you know, there is --

1 actually, you know, Rover did send me a communication
2 from land stewards encouraging me to get involved with
3 this company, and this is all directed towards how
4 they're going to approach when they cross agricultural
5 fields and the problems associated with the tiling
6 that's going on here. That's important, I understand
7 that, these farmers have to make a living, it's a way of
8 life for them, okay. Southern Michigan, you know, this
9 company describes Southern Michigan as essentially as a
10 swamp, I think today's modern term for this is wetland,
11 but there isn't anything in here that -- they don't have
12 any company or that is going to come to anybody's
13 assistance when it comes to, you know, the little
14 pockets of hardwood and shrub scrub habitat that we have
15 in the fragile narrower corridors that are existing in
16 Washtenaw County, that's what we've been left with. We
17 don't have any contiguous forest here, none. Little
18 pockets of hardwoods. The greatest threat to
19 biodiversity in this nation is habitat fragmentation,
20 degradation, or destruction. I know that these
21 companies will not go anywhere near an endangered
22 species or a cemetery, and why does a species have to
23 become -- approach being endangered before we stop
24 fooling with it?

25 MR. PECONOM: Mr. Daniels you're coming up on

1 15 minutes.

2 MR. DANIEL: Okay. Well, I appreciate that.
3 I went on probably too long, and I was afraid of doing
4 that, but, anyway, I was able to express just a few of
5 my concerns, and I appreciate it. Thank you.

6 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

7 Mr. Brian Dever.

8 MR. DEVER: Good evening. I am Bryan Dever
9 B-r-y-a-n D-e-v-e-r. I am a land owner that's affected
10 by ET Rover. A little about me, I'm 40 years old and
11 I've lived in 18 different homes. This home we moved
12 into with my wife and my children about five years ago
13 and it was the house I told my wife you're taking me out
14 in a box, I'm not leaving. You know, it's a little
15 house on 10 acres, big pond on the land and woods in the
16 back, it's our dream home. About a month ago, month and
17 a half ago I came home to my dream home and there was a
18 business card on the front door from a land agent,
19 Carlton McGowan was his name. Didn't know anything
20 about ET Rover, never had gotten a letter. I know at
21 the Lima Township meeting the ET Rover people said, hey,
22 we gave everybody lots of notice. I didn't know about
23 the open house. All I had was this card, and on the
24 back of the card it says please call me. That
25 afternoon, it was a Friday, I called Carlton McGowan,

1 and I said I don't know what this is about, can you tell
2 me. And basically he said, well, we're bringing a
3 pipeline through your property, you know, and I need you
4 to sign a waiver so that we can come on your property
5 and survey it. I was respectful to the man, although,
6 you know, obviously upset, and I said, you know, e-mail
7 me the stuff you want me to sign and I'll review it, but
8 my inclination is not to sign. Within two hours he was
9 calling my phone again, you know, did you get my e-mail?
10 I need you to sign this today. You know, I respectfully
11 told him that that wasn't going to happen.

12 The long and short of it is I was in great
13 communication with this man, I was respectful, I said
14 look, you know, you got to do what you got to do, I got
15 to do what I got to do, but there's no way I'm signing
16 this. Two days later -- I said don't show up at my
17 house without, you know, a court order, I said I talked
18 to my attorney and that's what he's expressed to me,
19 it's my rights. Two days later I luckily had forgotten
20 something at home, and I went back home about 9:00 in
21 the morning to find surveyors entering my property. I
22 was very adamant that they needed to leave, and they did
23 after some confrontation. They came back sometime
24 later, I can't remember if it was days or weeks, but
25 they came back this time with armed personnel. Security

1 guard, I don't know who the heck the guy was, but they
2 were, you know, very clear to tell me that they were
3 armed and that I needed to let them on the property. In
4 future I was able to get them to leave. They've come
5 back four times in total. I have notified them both
6 verbally and in writing that, you know, you've come to
7 my house armed and I feel threatened. I'm not a violent
8 man, but I actually had to be armed as well when I talk
9 with these people, because I got eight guys surrounding
10 me telling me to sign this paper.

11 My point is that these people, this company or
12 at least their representatives have lied to us, have
13 been intimidating. All my neighbors have told me these
14 terrible stories of feeling intimidated, especially some
15 of the older people, some of the women that live alone
16 that, you know, they're scared to death. These guys,
17 we've had local meetings, our State Rep has, you know,
18 organized these meetings, invited Rover to come and
19 answer our questions. They have declined. They say we
20 can't, our schedule's too full.

21 If you look around the room today, you'll see
22 a good many union engineers and pipe layers and whatnot.
23 They have sent them to every meeting. I've never heard
24 any of them speak. I really feel like it's an
25 intimidation tactic, you know, you end up with very

1 intimidating large guys showing up, and a lot of people
2 don't feel comfortable speaking because of that. And
3 it's just, it's how things have gone this whole time,
4 you know. I'm a businessman, and I think about
5 motivations for things. You look around this room, you
6 guys are motivated because it's your responsibility, I'm
7 sure you take very seriously to, you know, decide
8 whether this should happen. You look around this room,
9 you know, the motivation of ET Rover people, that's
10 obvious, it's a great deal of profit. I don't know what
11 a cubic foot of gas is worth but 3.5 billion cubic feet
12 per day, I'm sure that's a fair amount of profit. The
13 union members around here are, you know, I'm sure that
14 they look at this as their next, you know, six months,
15 year, 18 months worth of work. They've got families to
16 feed, I understand that, but, again, it's the
17 motivation. Everyone involved other than you and the
18 land owners are motivated by money in this. We just
19 want to be left alone. We just want our land.

20 My children, you know, have seen the
21 altercations I've had with these land agents, they're
22 scared to get off the bus. For the last several weeks
23 my kids have gone either to the library or to my
24 parents' house after school, they don't want to get off
25 the bus, they're scared that the guys with the guns are

1 coming back. This may make me sound like a right wing,
2 you know, crazy, gun toting fanatic, and I apologize if
3 I do, but I value the safety of my family, both from the
4 process of this and the pipeline itself. Again, I
5 planned on being buried -- you know, carried out of my
6 house in a box. My wife is scared to death of this
7 pipeline. It's going to be well within whatever blast
8 zone -- they're only about 400 feet behind my house.
9 She's informed me that we're moving, that she -- if this
10 goes through, you know, we're moving. She does not feel
11 safe raising our children there, and I can't say as I
12 blame her.

13 If all of this were for some community
14 purpose, I guess I could get on board. You know, I
15 flipped my lights on this morning, that power came
16 miles, you know, I don't know how many miles it came
17 from the power plant, all those power lines came through
18 somebody's backyard, and I get it, you know, I totally
19 get it. And if this pipeline was feeding gas to my
20 neighbor's furnace and my furnace and, you know, doing
21 something for our community, I might have a slightly
22 different view of it, I wouldn't be happy about it, but
23 I might have a different view of it, but it's not. To
24 me, you know, you're talking about a corporation down
25 south wanting to send their product to somebody who's

1 willing to pay a little more and they're in Canada,
2 when, you know, we have limited resources here, you
3 know, somebody mentioned earlier about all of our coal
4 fired power plants that have to be converted to natural
5 gas. It doesn't make any sense to me. It's ironic that
6 most of our rural community is heated with propane here,
7 so I'm going to have 3.5 billion cubic feet going
8 through where my woods used to be, but I'm still paying
9 4 bucks a gallon for propane, it's a little hard to
10 handle.

11 But I guess I leave you with this. I don't
12 think anyone here who's dealt with ET Rover came off
13 feeling good about the situation. I think these people
14 have intimidated us, lied to us, and if you give them
15 the power of eminent domain, I mean it's like it's going
16 to take all the cards off. We all play the hand we're
17 dealt, but that's really going to stack the deck, I
18 guess. So I thank you for your time. I thank you for
19 coming here. For a long time we felt like we had no one
20 to talk to, nobody to express these concerns to, and
21 it's been out of the hands of our local representatives,
22 and, you know, I thank you for the opportunity to speak
23 directly to you.

24 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Dever.

25 Mr. Earl Horning.

1 MR. HORNING: At this time I'd like to pass.

2 MR. PECONOM: Mr. Timoszyk.

3 MR. TIMOSZYK: Timothy Timoszyk,
4 T-i-m-o-s-z-y-k, citizen of Manchester Township. Thank
5 you for coming. I wouldn't want to be in your shoes up
6 there tonight. I am a land owner of 10 acres. I'm
7 previously from a suburb of Detroit, and one of my
8 biggest goals and dreams in my life was to purchase land
9 and to build a home, so my wife and I purchased 10 acres
10 and built a home in 1994. It is a probably 60 to 75
11 percent wooded lot that contains obviously deer,
12 turkeys, fox, assorted ducks and geese, and everything
13 else. Has a tiny little pond on it. My neighbor, who
14 has 18 and a half acres, has pond there. So, in fact,
15 even to the point of when I placed my home on that
16 parcel of land, I pointed it so I would look at this
17 landscape of trees. It just so happens that this
18 pipeline that they're proposing goes right through that
19 swath of trees, so every single stick between when I
20 look outside my living room to M52 will be gone. For
21 those people that are familiar with the area, when
22 you're coming northbound on 52 towards Manchester, as
23 you get close to town every bit of those trees on the
24 east side of the road will be gone, and that's one of my
25 biggest concerns.

1 Secondly, this pipeline will be, by my
2 approximation, less than 120 feet from my home. That
3 makes me a little uncomfortable. I'm losing sleep over
4 this, the fact that I hear everything from 660 feet is a
5 kill zone, and I love it when they say that it's a kill
6 zone, apparently I'll never know it happened, to a
7 quarter mile. I don't really know if I want to be
8 living right next to a natural gas bomb. So obviously
9 that's a concern.

10 The fact that you have a for-profit company
11 that doesn't own the gas, they are just being hired to
12 build a pipeline to transport gas that's not going to
13 Michigan, that's going to another nation, and we know
14 Canada's our friend and they have good beer, we're not
15 getting anything in place of that, we're just shipping
16 it. And they may say we're going to give you -- you
17 know, token of X number percent of natural gas going to
18 Michigan, I don't buy it. They have been pushy, and all
19 the stories you hear, and I'm sure there's dozens more
20 about how these people come on your property and they're
21 just saying, as a matter of fact, we are putting a gas
22 line through your property. And the communication is
23 awful. The fact that they never even went to a single
24 Township, Village, County, or as far as I'm concerned
25 the State is obscene. They should have started at the

1 State. Those people, if you talk to Gretchen Driscoll,
2 she didn't know anything about it. Adam Zenkey didn't
3 know anything about it. They had to hear it from us.
4 It shouldn't work that way, it's backwards. We should
5 not be having to call our Village and Township
6 supervisors and say what the hell are these people doing
7 out here when they don't know anything about it. And
8 we're getting letters saying it's coming, be prepared,
9 and we have this mentality that we're just supposed to
10 rollover. We're not powerful, we're not lawyers, we
11 don't make hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to
12 fight this. We have to count on people like you to
13 fight our battle for us, and we hope to God you can for
14 us. Thank you.

15 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Timoszyk.

16 Miss Susan Smirk.

17 MS. SMIRK: Good evening. My name is Susan
18 smirk. I'm here as a concerned citizen. The pipeline
19 is not going directly through my house. I live in Grass
20 Lake Township, but a year and a half ago when I found
21 out what fracking was all about and what they're doing,
22 the frackers, to our whole country, I've been to several
23 of these meetings because it could be my backyard next,
24 and I must say my heart goes out to all of you land
25 owners, I'm so, so sorry for you, and maybe we can do

1 something, right.

2 For one thing, I am a biology professor at
3 several community colleges in the area so I am speaking
4 with a little bit of education. I'm also a member of
5 the Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan, because, as
6 I've heard now quite a bit here just in the last hour or
7 so, you know, people think they have nothing they can
8 do. They come in, they intimidate, sometimes these
9 people come in to these farmers, they -- I've heard
10 because I've done a lot of research and I've heard that
11 they're ex-CIA maybe and ex-FBI hostage negotiators. So
12 they're trying to convince these people and these
13 intimidation tactics are scary.

14 All right. Let me get to my list here that I
15 have. You're part of the Federal Energy Regulatory
16 Commission. I'm just wondering how much research you
17 people have actually done on the ground as to the
18 consequences that has happened to our United States
19 since about 2008 when fracking occurred in Pennsylvania.
20 Do you know that all of the wells, now, I know this is
21 the pipeline, but where is this coming from are the
22 wells, so the fracking wells are most definitely a huge
23 part of the big picture here. If they weren't fracking
24 there, we wouldn't be here today worried about the gas
25 coming through there. Do you know 5 to 6 percent of all

1 wells leak when they are made, and 50, 60 percent of all
2 wells are going to leak over their lifetime. Now,
3 they're doing millions of fracking wells in the U.S.
4 that many people don't know about. There's all kinds of
5 them here in Michigan up north. Now, if you put the
6 infrastructure, that just enables more fracking
7 everywhere.

8 The health impacts in Pennsylvania in the
9 fracking area, 1 to 10 miles, the rates of birth
10 defects, congenital heart defects, brain disorders,
11 spinal cord, because all of these gases, which I'm sure
12 some of these gases are going to have to come through
13 these pipelines, they cause cancer, neurological
14 disorders, nose bleeds, asthma, children are going to
15 have to wear masks. They are killing their animals.
16 There is proof now over 240 some wells in Pennsylvania
17 have been contaminated from fracking. If this is
18 through and this is promoted, it's just going to enhance
19 it more and more.

20 And they say it's safe? It's not safe. What
21 about all the leaks everywhere, and I didn't know that
22 the company building it, it isn't even going to be their
23 gas, so how safe do they need to be? Do they live
24 around here? Are any local workers going to be hired?
25 Is it all the benefit of out-of-state?

1 As far as which relates to the eminent domain,
2 now, I'm not sure how many people know it was companies
3 like this and the oil companies that paid big money to
4 lobbyists to go to our legislatures which they bypass
5 because they make the rules now, to get this law,
6 though, they didn't want to bypass the eminent domain.
7 Eminent domain has been bought and paid for in Michigan,
8 it's not to benefit Michigan in any way, shape, or form.

9 Regulating it, there's no Federal regulations,
10 that went out in 2008, we all know that. They left it
11 to all the broke states to regulate the gas and oil
12 industry. How can they do it when they're broke? Of
13 course the States are going to say, yeah, give me money
14 for the leases. Now, keep in mind developing means more
15 pipelines while we're here. They say, yeah, you can go
16 ahead and develop, we're broke, we need that \$2 or
17 whatever an acre.

18 And another big picture, we have to move away
19 from fossil fuels. The human species is at risk. I
20 don't understand why we go to the doctor, we get a
21 prescription, we trust all science behind that
22 prescription, even though there's all the side effects,
23 but we want to say the climate isn't changing. Wake up
24 and smell the coffee. The climate is changing. The
25 president just agreed with China, we are the biggest

1 carbon polluters with them. We have to set the example.
2 What example are you setting sitting there by allowing
3 this dirty polluting, look how many -- upsetting, what
4 you're doing to communities, pitting people against each
5 other, how is that helping anyone?

6 All right, the coal plants, I understand we
7 have to get away from that. What's wrong with solar,
8 wind, and water? There's plenty of it. Why does it
9 have to be natural gas? Why do you even think about
10 putting an infrastructure for something that is not
11 sustainable that causes climate change? I don't get it.
12 Have you not done your research? The poorest people in
13 the world are being affected by what we're doing with
14 all this fracking. Oh, I need a drink -- sorry, anybody
15 have any water? Okay. Now, I'm assuming that some of
16 this gas coming from Pennsylvania is from the Marcellus
17 Shale. Please do your research. I just learned two
18 days ago, that gas is highly, highly radioactive, okay.
19 Tomorrow night in Ypsi there's a fundraiser for the
20 Committee at the brewery in order to learn the dirty
21 lies of the radioactive fracking. Chefs in Pennsylvania
22 and New York that are using the Marcellus gas are dying
23 of cancer and getting cancer from radiation. They're
24 doing this new fracking, as you know, horizontal, they
25 say doing it for years, not the horizontal, it's

1 bringing up much more radiation. Where is the research?
2 Why can't you base these decisions on scientific data,
3 not people that are being raped of their land and their
4 hopes and their dreams as I may be one day.

5 MR. PECONOM: Miss Smirk, you're coming up on
6 15 minutes.

7 MS. SMIRK: Okay. This is part of the east
8 connection I just heard about in case the Keystone
9 doesn't go through. And I think I got it. Sorry.

10 MS. HARRIS: Thank you.

11 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

12 Mr. Bill Black.

13 MR. BLACK: Good evening. I'm very honored to
14 be here today testifying in front of this committee, and
15 I'm very honored to be here in front of all these house
16 owners here this evening. A couple points that I'd like
17 to bring up, and I know you've sat through a lot of
18 testimony, and in my business, you know, you can only
19 absorb what you can set through, so I'm going to make a
20 few quick points here to get my points across to you.

21 You know, first of all, my name is Bill Black,
22 B-l-a-c-k, and I am legislative director for the
23 Michigan Teamsters, and we have been involved in all
24 types of new fuel processing for decades. So this
25 argument that's going on now is not a new argument.

1 It's been going on for quite a while. The United States
2 is currently in the midst of a massive energy surge that
3 is providing the nation with domestic, affordable, and
4 clean natural gas. In turn, this surge is delivering a
5 manufacturing renaissance for much of our country. We
6 know here in Michigan the economic recovery has an
7 opportunity to be part of this historic comeback, but in
8 order to make this happen, we need to build
9 infrastructure that will deliver this energy to
10 residential, commercial, and industrial customers.
11 Everybody here realizes what has happened in the last 10
12 years to the automobile industry and other industries.
13 We need this type of new fuel to help keep moving
14 forward on this.

15 The Rover Pipeline will deliver 3 billion
16 dollars -- 3 billion cubic feet of clean new gas
17 supplies each day from Ohio, West Virginia, and
18 Pennsylvania. The State of Michigan, because of the
19 relatively high energy consumption, is the 9th largest
20 customer of natural gas in the nation. Rover would
21 provide an important and affordable new supply for
22 natural gas to energy intensive industries and in
23 automotive, glass, metal, castings, chemical industries,
24 pulp, paper, and many other key industries in this
25 state. And working families in Michigan are going to

1 fully benefit from this energy boom. We need to get
2 more energy out of the state through Rover to our
3 doorsteps. And in the short-term, and this is very
4 important, because I heard some comments earlier today,
5 building Rover will provide over 10,000 construction
6 jobs with a cost of over 1 billion dollars paid to
7 workers in Michigan. Michigan workers --

8 MR. PECONOM: Ladies and gentlemen, we have
9 many issues that we face today, I think it's important
10 to keep a civil discussion, and if we can refrain from
11 excessive clapping, I'd really appreciate that.

12 MR. BLACK: I just want to thank our friends
13 that -- I'm not from laborers or from the operating
14 engineers, but I want to thank them for the jobs that
15 they do, because they deliver the jobs on time,
16 professionally, and safely, and I think that needs to be
17 duly noted on the record here today as well. Most
18 importantly, the work will be done by these skilled
19 professionals, and we have to remember that.

20 You may not know it, but Michigan has more
21 underground natural gas storage capacity, 1.1 trillion
22 cubic feet, more than any other state in the nation.
23 The reason you don't hear much about this existing
24 natural gas infrastructure is because it is interwoven
25 into our daily lives safely unaffected by daily living

1 by people. Energy is the livelihood of Michigan's
2 economy, and the Rover Pipeline will inject new life
3 into that economy. The state's labor organizations, the
4 people who helped build this state are ready to get to
5 work on this important new project. And, more
6 importantly, Mr. Chairman, the people that will be
7 building and working in this area will also be buying
8 products from these folks here. I heard a couple people
9 that own businesses here. Guess what, these workers are
10 going to buy food from here, they're going to buy
11 supplies from here, they're going to spend their hard
12 earned money here.

13 I want to thank you for the opportunity to
14 testify here today. I'm available to testify anywhere,
15 anytime, anyplace. I understand the emotional argument
16 behind this, but, again, thank you very much for your
17 time today.

18 MS. HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Black.

19 Miss Amanda Sumeris.

20 MR. PECONOM: Ladies and gentlemen, please, I
21 understand this is a very emotional issue and
22 passionate, but would you please be respectful.

23 Miss Sumeris.

24 MS. SUMERIS: Good afternoon, and thank you
25 for taking the time to hear my perspective on this

1 important issue. My name is Amanda Sumeris,
2 S-u-m-e-r-i-s, and I'm the Director of Communications
3 for the Michigan Forest Products Council. Our company
4 works to promote, protect, and sustain a vibrant
5 forestry industry in Michigan and promote the interests
6 of land owners. Our state has 19.3 million acres of
7 forest land which supports 150,000 jobs and 14.6 billion
8 dollars in annual economic activity. We support the
9 Rover Pipeline because it is a valuable opportunity for
10 Michigan land owners, an important piece of
11 infrastructure for Michigan's economy, and an investment
12 led by a company committed to working with land owners
13 and protecting Michigan's natural resources and
14 environment. As the NUCC pointed out in their
15 supportive blog post today, we, too, appreciate the
16 company's effort to minimize impact on conservation
17 easements and sensitive land. For land owners, the
18 multi-billion dollar investment from Rover will provide
19 over \$100 million in direct payments to land owners
20 along the route, an important economic opportunity for
21 those seeking to develop their individual property
22 rights. For our economy, the pipeline will create new
23 jobs both in our state and across the Great Lakes region
24 and provide consumers and businesses in Michigan with
25 the first direct linkage to the vast natural gas

1 reserves of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. And,
2 most importantly, we are confident that this pipeline
3 will be built according to Michigan's high environmental
4 standards. Following the guidelines set forth by this
5 body and other Federal regulatory agencies, there are
6 many protections in place to ensure our economy is
7 supplied with affordable energy in a safe and
8 responsible manner. We have been pleased with Energy
9 Transfer Partners' commitment to responsible
10 construction practices, their decision to utilize
11 experienced local labor and construction, and their
12 efforts with land owners to minimize impacts and fully
13 restore impacted land. The company's efforts to limit
14 impacts to conservation land to less than 3 percent of
15 the pipeline route is just one example of their good
16 faith efforts to protect Michigan land. Our company is
17 eager to see this project underway and encourage FERC to
18 move forward a timely manner. From safety to
19 employment, manufacturing, and consumer natural gas
20 prices, the Rover Pipeline will positively impact
21 Michigan well into the future. Thank you for your time.

22 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Miss Sumeris.

23 Mr. Gary Wolfran.

24 MR. WOLFRAN: Thank you for the opportunity to
25 speak to you tonight and to listen to all the concerns

1 here. My name is Gary Wolfram, W-o-l-f-r-a-m, and I am
2 an economist, and I want to talk about the importance of
3 a pipeline, the Rover Pipeline in particular. The U.S.
4 is now the largest producer of natural gas, and there is
5 no other country other than Russia that produces within
6 25 percent of the amount that we produce. The US EIA is
7 estimating that the production will increase by about 44
8 percent in the next 15 years. This is going to require
9 an infrastructure to support this natural gas. If you
10 look at the Michigan House of Representatives
11 Subcommittee on Natural Gas in April of 2012 concluded,
12 quote, "That new gas pipelines will be needed in
13 Michigan to receive larger volumes of natural gas to not
14 bottleneck flow and to minimize pipeline transport
15 costs." This is going to become even more necessary, as
16 you probably know that there is an agreement by the
17 president with China for the U.S. to reduce its
18 greenhouse gases emissions to about 26 percent below the
19 2005 emissions in 10 years. Natural gas produces about
20 half the amount of CO2 emissions that coal does per unit
21 of BTU of energy, so there's going to be an increased
22 demand for natural gas to replace coal. Now, this is
23 particularly important in Michigan since about 55
24 percent of our electricity generation is coming from
25 coal, so there will be likely a movement away from coal

1 fired power plants, as one of the other speakers talked
2 about, and towards natural gas combined cycle power
3 plants, and this is going to create a substantial
4 increase in demand for natural gas in particular in
5 Michigan. It's also possible that we may eventually
6 have natural gas vehicles. If that becomes operational,
7 then we'll have a large demand for the fueling stations
8 for these vehicles and will, therefore, increase the
9 demand for natural gas.

10 Now, natural gas is used in a variety of ways
11 that people don't really think about it. It's an
12 essential fuel and raw material in many manufacturers'
13 products, in fact, about 98 percent of all
14 manufacturers' products require some natural gas within
15 the manufacturing process. It's used for heating,
16 cooling, waste treatment, processing, raw material for
17 manufacturing chemicals, plastics, fertilizer,
18 pharmaceuticals, and other products.

19 Now, the pipeline will allow for efficient
20 transportation of natural gas throughout the Midwest and
21 Canada, and especially in Michigan, and if you have any
22 product, you'll note that the efficient transportation
23 of this product is necessary for economic development.
24 In fact, if we look, one of the reasons for the
25 interstate highway system is to promote and reduce the

1 cost of transporting goods and services.

2 Now, the Rover Pipeline would be an investment
3 of more than 4 billion dollars, it's going to create,
4 it's been noted, approximately 10,000 construction jobs,
5 and these workers, as has been noted, will generate
6 again economic activity as they stay at hotels and they
7 buy restaurant meals and they buy food and buy retail
8 clothing. And the pipeline will also provide payments
9 to land holders, about \$100 million in total, and
10 generate tax revenue for Michigan, the State, and for
11 local municipal government, and there is a sheet that
12 was handed out earlier that provides the exact amount
13 that will be provided for the different counties in
14 Michigan.

15 So, in summary, I'd just like to say that the
16 Rover Pipeline will be a significant factor in improving
17 Michigan's economy and environment. Thank you very
18 much.

19 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Wolfram.

20 Mr. Dick Turner.

21 MR. TURNER: Good evening. Richard Turner,
22 T-u-r-n-e-r. I'm here tonight in support of the Rover
23 Pipeline, a 43-year member of construction craft
24 laborers and I'm here, also, to support the construction
25 craft laborers that will build this pipeline along with

1 the operating engineers. Many construction craft
2 laborers live in the communities where the pipeline will
3 go through. The jobs provided by the pipeline are their
4 livelihoods. They also may be your neighbors, they also
5 live in the communities. They do not have the luxury of
6 going to the same job every day 40 hours a week. They
7 actually go to work to work themselves out of jobs. It
8 has been tough going for the construction craft laborers
9 and other craft building crafts for quite a while with
10 the economy being so bad, so when the opportunity arises
11 like the pipeline, which will mean lower energy cost and
12 will help create business opportunity, both current and
13 future, they need these good paying jobs. Don't forget
14 that the construction craft laborers and other building
15 trades built your schools, hospitals, water and sewage
16 plants, your roads, your power plants, water and sewer
17 systems that we use every day. That's why we need to
18 support them now. They need these jobs that will be
19 provided by the construction of the Rover Pipeline to
20 survive and be able to continue to provide their needed
21 services in the future.

22 I know there are those who would disagree, but
23 this I know, the Rover Pipeline will be built with local
24 union labor. Michigan labor training apprenticeship
25 will provide 164 hours of pipeline specific training for

1 construction craft laborers working on the project. We
2 want to build this project right because we live here,
3 too. Be assured that the owners of the pipeline are
4 highly regulated and will comply with all State and
5 Federal standards and are committed to working with
6 minimal disruption or impact to the land owners. I
7 encourage all parties involved to make this project a
8 win/win for everyone. Thank you.

9 MS. HARRIS: Thank you.

10 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Turner.

11 Mr. Dan Minton.

12 MR. MINTON: Good evening. First of all,
13 thank you for letting me speak tonight to the Commission
14 here. My name is Dan Minton, M-i-n-t-o-n. I am the
15 secretary-treasurer of Laborers Local 499. I'm here
16 tonight on behalf of my brothers and sisters that will
17 work on this project, that need these projects. They're
18 very well trained. You know, it's no secret the economy
19 has been way down. We hear numbers of, you know, the
20 unemployment being 20 percent. Let me tell you, that's
21 not including my members who have lost their
22 unemployment. You know, we have 1,500 members in my
23 local union. I'd say probably close to 20 percent of
24 them are still out of work. We need these jobs to get
25 them going back, produce money to get back in the

1 economy. You know, so I just encourage you to please
2 consider this, with all due respect to the land owners,
3 you know, I understand where they're coming from.
4 However, these jobs are very well needed and to be done
5 with safe, you know, our training centers here tonight,
6 you know, we have some of the most highly trained
7 laborers in the country, our instructors are ANSI
8 certified, so please consider this. I know you don't
9 take it lightly, but, you know, consider the jobs this
10 will produce for us and to spend in the community.
11 Thank you.

12 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Minton.

13 Mr. Lee Graham.

14 MR. GRAHAM: Good evening. My name is Lee
15 Graham, G-r-a-h-a-m. I am the training coordinator for
16 Local 324, the operating engineers. Local 324
17 represents traditional heavy equipment operators working
18 in building and construction markets as well as growing
19 membership, among the shops of public utilities, the
20 equipment maintenance, and even the public schools and
21 health care workers here in Michigan. Our training and
22 education center is located in Howell. We instruct our
23 apprentices and our journeymen on safety classes with
24 respect to operating the heavy equipment on construction
25 jobs. Our annual training budget is \$4.2 million, and

1 our training and education our past several years we've
2 averaged well over 250 classes annually. We the skilled
3 trades responsible for the pipeline construction pride
4 ourselves on having the most advanced training. We
5 diligently strive to ensure a safe workplace. Each year
6 we have the privilege of hosting multiple training
7 classes with the International Union Operating Engineers
8 National Training Fund Pipeline Division. We hold
9 instructional classes on the very equipment used on
10 these pipeline jobs. We know firsthand that our
11 instructors are the best of the best and the experts in
12 the field. On an average National Training Fund
13 Pipeline Division holds multiple instructional classes
14 each year. The annual training budget is \$4 million per
15 year for that organization.

16 I am speaking today to express the support for
17 the proposed Rover Pipeline. Local union workers will
18 be put to work building this pipeline. Across the
19 entire route more than 10,000 jobs will be created in
20 the short-term during this construction. This project
21 would bring Michigan long-term, low-cost natural gas to
22 heat our homes and to help boost our businesses.
23 Michigan manufacturing in particular relies on cheap gas
24 for the key goods like automotives and plastics. This
25 energy boom has put thousands of Americans back to

1 work strengthening the backbone of the American workers.
2 We in Michigan now know how important it is to bring
3 good quality jobs home to our state, so thank you for
4 your time.

5 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Graham.

6 Mr. Chad Lynch.

7 MR. LYNCH: Thank you for allowing us to speak
8 here this evening. Chad Lynch, L-y-n-c-h. I'm a
9 business representative for Local 324, Pipeline
10 Division. I've spent 20 years in the business myself,
11 I've worked all over the country and we've built these
12 pipelines that are held to the highest standard in
13 regard -- we have some of the most skilled operators in
14 the country right here in our state. These pipelines
15 will create a lot of jobs for our members and our
16 citizens of the State of Michigan and these counties in
17 Southern Michigan. I just wanted to get up here and
18 express to you to consider supporting this project for
19 the people of the State of Michigan. Thank you.

20 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Lynch.

21 Mr. John Hartwell.

22 MR. HARTWELL: Good evening. Thank you for
23 having us tonight. John Hartwell, J-o-h-n
24 H-a-r-t-w-e-l-l. I am the apprentice coordinator for
25 Operating Engineers Local 324 Apprenticeship Center, and

1 I'm here tonight to speak in favor of the Rover
2 Pipeline. I'm also a resident of one of the communities
3 that are going to be affected by the pipeline. It's
4 going to come right through our area. What I would like
5 to speak to is our apprentices and our journey people
6 that live along the pipeline and in the communities,
7 also. We spend our money there, we're raising our
8 children there, our children are attending the schools
9 there, we're a part of the community. I know with our
10 group here tonight, I can speak for the apprentices who
11 do live in the area, again, who are spending their money
12 there all the time and what it means to them to be able
13 to work on a project like this, to be able to provide
14 for their families, to be able to make their futures
15 happen, also. So I had 10 pages prepared of statement,
16 but I'm going to keep it brief tonight and thank you and
17 hope for your support of the pipeline. Thank you.

18 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Hartwell.

19 Mr. Brandon Durbin.

20 MR. DURBIN: Good evening. My name is Brandon
21 Durbin, that's D-u-r-b-i-n. I just wanted to talk a
22 little bit about the positive economic impact of the
23 Rover Pipeline for the Midwest. Again, my name is
24 Brandon Durbin, and I'm here representing Aerial
25 Corporation. We're located in Mount Vernon, Ohio, and

1 since 1966 Aerial has been involved with the gathering,
2 transporting, and treatment of natural gas. In recent
3 years, due to technological advancements, large
4 quantities of natural gas has become available in the
5 Midwest through the Marcellus and Utica Shale, and where
6 we are in Mount Vernon, that's literally in our back
7 yard. Our compressors are currently being used to
8 gather and treat this gas. The Rover Pipeline will use
9 Aerial compressors to transport this gas where it can be
10 sold on the open market bringing revenue back into the
11 states it runs through including Michigan. Aerial
12 Corporation is a manufacturer of reciprocating
13 compressors with locations in Mount Vernon and Akron,
14 Ohio. We employ over 1,800 people between our six
15 main manufacturing facilities in Mount Vernon and our
16 Akron campus. These are modern air conditioned
17 facilities featuring state-of-the-art C & C machines
18 with fully trained operators.

19 Aerial is committed to employee safety and
20 providing a clean and desirable work environment.
21 Aerial ships over 3,000 compressors per year to more
22 than 100 countries with the majority staying in North
23 America. The company was started by Jim Buckwald and is
24 owned and managed today by his daughter, Karen. Aerial
25 Compressors are built in Ohio with 95 percent plus of

1 the parts made or sourced in the Midwest. We use
2 castings from foundries located throughout the area. In
3 addition, we contract outside machine shops throughout
4 the region including Clark Manufacturing out of Traverse
5 City, Michigan. Employing nearly 100 people, Clark is
6 one of our top 10 suppliers delivering many different
7 high quality parts. In total, we use about 75 Midwest
8 suppliers employing over 5,000 people.

9 Over 45,000 Aerial Compressors have been
10 shipped based on the original design and continuing
11 product improvements. Aerial units feature a robust
12 design with operator and facility safety being of prime
13 importance. In addition, our equipment is designed to
14 be environmentally friendly, minimizing the chance of
15 gas or oil leaks. The Rover Pipeline will be using more
16 than 35 of our large units, accounting for thousands of
17 labor hours in machine and assembly. With an expected
18 life span of 50-plus years, these units will be
19 supported with spare parts made and provided by our
20 Midwest based facilities and distributors further
21 contributing to the national economy. The units will be
22 operated and maintained by local technicians providing
23 local jobs and further stimulating the local economy.

24 Through the Rover Pipeline, Energy Transfer
25 and Aerial are both committed to the economic future of

1 the Midwest and our country, and if you guys have any
2 questions about compressors, I'll be available after the
3 meeting. Thank you for your time.

4 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Durbin.

5 Mr. Ken Simonson.

6 MR. SIMONSON: Good evening. My name is
7 Kenneth Simonson, S-i-m-o-n-s-o-n. I am the chief
8 economist for the Associated General Contractors of
9 America based in Arlington, Virginia. We have 92
10 chapters throughout the country, including AGC of
11 Michigan and in total over 25,000 companies that do
12 every type of construction other than single-family home
13 building as well as suppliers and service providers.

14 Estimates done five years ago for AGC of
15 America by Professor Stephen Fuller of George Mason
16 University, one of the nation's most foremost regional
17 economists, found that for every billion dollars spent
18 on nonresidential construction, there were two jobs
19 created outside of construction and nearly 10,000 jobs
20 in construction. So the impact of building this
21 pipeline will go far beyond the workers who are hired to
22 put the pipeline in place. The direct construction
23 impact, as you've heard, may be as many as 10 ,000 jobs.
24 In addition, there would be close to 5,000 jobs in
25 supplying industries ranging from quarries to

1 manufacturing of equipment and pipe to service
2 providers, trucking firms that are going to deliver the
3 materials and the equipment. But the biggest impact of
4 all is in the 14,000 or so jobs that would be created
5 once the owners and employees of the construction and
6 supplying businesses spend their additional wages and
7 profits throughout the economy.

8 In the case of Michigan, many of these jobs
9 would be local, because you do have such a strong
10 manufacturing base in this state that a lot of the
11 materials and equipment and the final machinery would be
12 locally sourced. But the most important benefit to the
13 state goes into effect once the pipeline is in place
14 with the use of that natural gas, and this week
15 certainly illustrates the need to have more natural gas
16 as people worry about limited supplies of natural gas,
17 of propane, and of heating oil for this week and for the
18 winter to come. In addition, the natural gas will help
19 make Michigan more competitive in a wide range of
20 manufacturing industries that are going to be looking at
21 where they can get natural gas for either energy source
22 or for feed stock for creating their products and where
23 to locate those businesses.

24 The construction jobs that this would support
25 are good paying jobs. In Michigan the pay for

1 construction workers in 2013 averaged \$53,600. That was
2 15 percent above the all industry average in Michigan.
3 But Michigan has been losing construction jobs for
4 decades. Its peak for construction employment was way
5 back in April of 2000, and although construction
6 employment has been coming back for the last four years,
7 it's still 35 percent below that peak whereas for the
8 U.S. as a whole, construction employment is now 21
9 percent below peak. So building this pipeline will not
10 only create construction jobs during the period that is
11 put in place, but will have follow-on effects that will
12 be very important for construction and for a variety of
13 industries, consumers, and utilities here in Michigan.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Simonson.

16 Mr. Aaron Auten.

17 MR. AUTEN: Good evening. Any name is Aaron
18 Auten, A-u-t-e-n. I live in Washtenaw County. I've
19 lived there for 35 of my 38 years. I've been a member
20 of the laborers local for 17 years. I am a single
21 supporter of my family, my wife and two teenage
22 daughters. Working union pays my bills. This pipeline
23 will bring financial support to me for the next couple
24 years. I just came from Pennsylvania. I have to
25 travel, sometimes I travel for work. It is a major

1 thing for me to be able to stay home to take care of my
2 family, and this job will -- this pipeline will help to
3 secure that for me, so I encourage you to support this.
4 Thank you.

5 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Auten.

6 Mr. Wilds.

7 MR. WILDS: My name is Robert Wilds,
8 W-i-l-d-s, and I'd like to thank the opportunity to
9 speak here before the FERC committee and for the people
10 in the area. I'm a representative of the International
11 Union of Operating Engineers and a member. I will start
12 off by saying I am in favor of the pipeline. I had a
13 statement prepared. I'm going to try and speak on
14 safety and environmental, though. An interstate
15 pipeline is the most heavily safety and environmentally
16 regulated method of transportation of a product there
17 is. To transport the product via railway or via highway
18 would not only put the general public in harm's way but
19 maybe our children and grandchildren that are on these
20 very highways where these trucks would have to be or in
21 these towns where the railways travel through.

22 And to get also with the safety, there was a
23 young lady up here earlier that asked about the welds.
24 I've also worked in the industry since 1986. I started
25 in 1986 working from the ground up, and I've seen

1 evolutions as far as the safety, environmental changes
2 all becoming stricter and stricter and stricter, every
3 year when I went to work on a project. As far as the
4 young lady asking about the welds, all welds are x-rayed
5 or ultrasound. It is in the CFR 49 code regulations,
6 195, 192. 195 talks about gas, liquids. 192 talks
7 about the natural gas, okay. It's all in there, all the
8 regulations are in CFR 49. I know CFR 49 is about 600
9 pages. Part of my job is reading them regulations, I
10 can't quote them all to you, but I know a lot of them,
11 okay, and I have been out there firsthand and seen the
12 welds x-rayed. Okay.

13 As far as the coal power plants being shut
14 down, how can they be converted over to natural gas if
15 there's no pipeline going through the area. They're not
16 going to build natural gas power plants or convert coal
17 power plants over to natural gas if there's not
18 availability of gas. So if there's a pipeline coming
19 through the area, there's availability of gas, they go
20 hand-in-hand.

21 Young lady spoke about solar. I know a little
22 bit about solar. My wife and I built a house four years
23 ago. We put solar system on. We put a 10 K system on
24 the roof, which is the largest residential system that
25 we could purchase. We use geothermal heat; very, very

1 costly to the average homeowner. It's not very feasible
2 for the average person. We were fortunate, both of us
3 worked, we've put a lot of money away, but it hurt us
4 financially, but we're making it, but it is very costly,
5 okay.

6 Environmentally to transport the product via
7 railways or highways would take thousands of gallons of
8 diesel fuel, for trucks, locomotives emitting
9 particulates into the air that we'd all have to breathe
10 every day.

11 My union brothers here, Rover has come out and
12 stated that they will use union labor. There are some
13 reasons for that. One, the question was asked if local
14 people will work on this project. All agreements state
15 50 percent of the labor will be local hire, so 50
16 percent of the people working in the area will be local
17 hire, so those will hopefully be the people that will be
18 paying for their homes, buying automobiles, hopefully
19 Ford, GM, and Chrysler products, putting their children
20 through school, spending their money right here where
21 they live, 50 percent of the people in that agreement.

22 Right now at this time the operating engineers
23 has some training going on at the Howell training site,
24 it is pipeline specific training, it was mentioned
25 earlier by a couple of the other speakers. Two of the

1 key aspects of that training are safety and
2 environmental issues, regulations and issues, and
3 they're addressed.

4 And I feel sure that if anybody in the
5 audience would like to witness any of this training, if
6 they contact the people at the Howell training site in
7 Michigan over at Howell at the operating engineers,
8 contact them there, I'm sure they'll invite you to come
9 in and view the training that they do and see the safety
10 and environmental issues that they do. For a FERC job,
11 interstate pipeline, like I said, I have worked since
12 1986 in the industry on the ground, environmental --
13 there are inspectors there, FERC -- there will be a FERC
14 monitor on the job monitoring it, and if the
15 environmental regulations are not met during
16 construction, I'm sure FERC will spank Rover, I feel
17 sure of that. I know I've seen it firsthand.

18 Safety issues, DOT regulates a pipeline, the
19 coating, the integrity of the pipe, the amount of cover
20 on it, the padding on it, it's all done because the
21 safety of the general public, safety and welfare of the
22 general public and for the environment. I'll stop at
23 that to allow some other people to speak. Thank you for
24 your time.

25 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Wilds.

1 Mr. Ray Kasmark.

2 MR. KASMAR: First, I'd like to thank FERC
3 for coming here for this hearing and allowing us all to
4 speak. My name is Ray Kasmark, K-a-s-m-a-r-k, and I'm
5 with the IBEW, International Brotherhood of Electrical
6 Workers. I'll forgo my prepared remarks out of respect
7 for the rest of the speakers and it's getting late.
8 I'll just say that we stand with our fellow building
9 trades people in support of Energy Transfer Partners
10 Rover Project. We look forward to working on the
11 compressor and meter stations. We commend their
12 commitment to the building trades and knowing that
13 they're going to get a job that's done right the first
14 time, safe, on budget, and community members that do
15 that work and spread that wealth throughout the
16 community, and we look forward to the long-term effects
17 of this pipeline. We all train our apprentices with a
18 huge amount of private resources for careers, not just a
19 job, we don't get our people out of a temp agency and
20 put them to work for a couple weeks and then discard
21 them. Our members are career electricians, pipe
22 fitters, laborers, operating engineers, Teamsters. So
23 this pipeline will bring opportunity for years to come
24 for the huge supply of clean natural gas available.
25 Economic development follows that. There's a lot of

1 resources here along this pipeline that will be to the
2 benefit of everybody in the community. Thank you.

3 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Kasmak.

4 Mr. Tim Hutchins.

5 MR. HUTCHINS: Good evening, and thank you for
6 the opportunity to speak. My name is Tim Hutchins,
7 H-u-t-c-h-i-n-s. I am here today as a business manager
8 of IBEW Local 252, International Brotherhood of
9 Electrical Workers. We serve Southeast Michigan with
10 business offices in Ann Arbor and Jackson, and our
11 training center, apprenticeship and training center is
12 here in Chelsea. Local 252 has more than 800 members
13 who are electricians, voice data, and video workers, and
14 we represent over 50 electrical contractors in
15 Washtenaw, Jackson, and Livingston Counties.

16 I want to urge you to approve and to approve
17 and move forward with the proposed Rover Pipeline. The
18 project would join a growing network of pipelines
19 connecting American energy with American consumers and
20 businesses helping reduce our dependence on foreign oil
21 and bolstering American production. Fundamentally I
22 support this project because it will create jobs in
23 Michigan. Locally construction of the pipeline will
24 employ thousands of jobs for in the short-term and
25 provide an economic jolt to South Central Michigan and a

1 wide area. In addition, the pipeline would provide a
2 long-term supply of cheap American natural gas for
3 homeowners and businesses across our state. For a state
4 with homeowners facing daunting heating costs, access to
5 cheap natural gas to heat our homes is going to be a
6 godsend, and with natural gas being a critical input
7 good for our struggling manufacturing industry, Michigan
8 will benefit from a competitive edge as we grow out of
9 this 2008 financial crisis as a euphemism. You know, in
10 a state that's faced incredible economic hardships over
11 the past six years, we need to capitalize on every job-
12 creating opportunity we can get, this project included.
13 But we should also ensure that this project is done in a
14 way that mitigates any impact to land owners, farmers,
15 and our environment, and that's why I'm encouraged by
16 the proposed pipeline's commitment to our land. The
17 company has promised to rigorously monitor the pipeline
18 during construction and during long-term operation, with
19 24/7 safety measures and regulatory oversight including
20 maintenance plans. This project is committed to doing
21 this right. Our country has been the fortunate
22 beneficiary of the recent energy boom, and we need to
23 take advantage of it. And that's why I would urge you
24 to approve this project timely. Thank you.

25 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Hutchins.

1 Mr. Phillip Wallace.

2 MR. WALLACE: My name's Phillip Wallace,
3 Phillips with two L's, Wallace, W-a-l-l-a-c-e. And I
4 represent the pipeline Local 798 of the United
5 Association of United States and Canada. We have around
6 300,000 member pipe workers. We are the welders and
7 weld these pipelines together and build compression
8 stations in this industry. We've had around 2,500
9 highly trained and skilled craftsmen and women working
10 in the Ohio Valley for the last five years connecting
11 the wells and laying the gathering lines. Now the Rover
12 Pipeline needs to be constructed to transport this
13 natural gas to the markets to Michigan and the other
14 states that badly need it. Union brothers and all the
15 trades will bring professional pipeline workers to
16 Energy Transfer to get the Rover Pipeline built safely
17 and on time with the best craftsmanship in the world.
18 I've worked in the pipeline welding business for 38
19 years from the TransAlaska pipeline to the oil fields of
20 South America, and I can testify that Energy Transfer
21 does it right. Our contractors don't build bridges,
22 highways, or skyscrapers, they build pipelines, and they
23 are good at it. Energy Transfer don't award their
24 projects to the low bidder on the projects like the
25 Rover, they want the best value they can to get, and

1 that's why they come to our pipeline contractors to get
2 the best product available. The contractors will be
3 monitored by Rover for quality control and assured this
4 pipeline has met all the requirements set by DOT and
5 FEMSA for safety and to protect the environment.

6 Rover Pipeline is badly needed to transport
7 natural gas from the Marcellus and Utica gas fields to
8 the markets across the northeast states to be
9 distributed for heating homes, to fuel gas fired power
10 generating plants, transportation, and many other uses
11 for this cheap, abundant, and clean burning energy. And
12 the best thing, it's ours. It's not imported from
13 foreign countries where our young military men and women
14 are fighting and dying every day. I want to thank FERC
15 for allowing me to speak, and I would ask you to permit
16 this local pipeline. Thank you.

17 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Wallace.

18 Mr. Kevin Groeb.

19 MR. GROEB: Good evening. Thanks for the
20 opportunity to speak. My name is Kevin Groeb,
21 G-r-o-e-b. I'm here to support the Rover Pipeline.
22 Today there are more than 2.6 million miles of pipeline
23 across the U.S. safely transporting affordable energy
24 across the country. 80 percent of the transmission line
25 will remain underground and parallel existing

1 right-of-ways like pipelines, power lines, and roads to
2 minimize the impact on the community. The pipeline will
3 be covered with at least 3 foot of soil and even deeper
4 in agricultural areas. Most everybody's already stole
5 my storm here. I represent the plumbers and steam
6 fitters for the UA. We do all the gas distribution for
7 the entire State of Michigan and the entire State of
8 Ohio, and there are some gathering points here in
9 Michigan which tells me a lot of this gas is going right
10 back to farm taps to run your dryers, your houses, to
11 heat your house, and that's where we take off when they
12 deodorize the system, that's where the distribution
13 people take over. 798 takes care of the main line, but,
14 again, there's a lot of jobs here created, and hopefully
15 you see fit to push this forward. Thank you.

16 MS. HARRIS: Thank you.

17 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Groeb.

18 Mr. Mike Kuhl.

19 MR. KUHL: How you doing. My name is Michael
20 Kuhl, and that is K-u-h-l. I live in Ransom Township,
21 and I've been a laborer for 20 plus years. I've done
22 pipeline for well over 20 years. I've raised a family
23 on it. I traveled. I've been all throughout some of
24 the United States doing it. I've chosen union work as a
25 way of my life, and this is my life. This job here will

1 create revenue for my family, for my children, for my
2 grandchildren, and I'm not going to hold your time up.
3 Thank you.

4 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Kuhl.

5 MS. HARRIS: Thank you.

6 MR. PECONOM: Mr. Scott McDonald.

7 MR. McDONALD: Good evening. Thank you for
8 having us here tonight. My name is Scott, S-c-o-t-t,
9 McDonald, M-c-D-o-n-a-l-d. I'm here to support the
10 pipeline, and I just want to speak briefly. I'm the
11 Director of Apprenticeship at the Michigan Laborers and
12 Training Apprenticeship Institute. I think to speak
13 more about our training, it really wouldn't serve any
14 purpose, you've heard it from others already. The
15 bottom line is, and I'm speaking to the homeowners, if
16 these crews end up on your property, you're going to
17 have the best trained, most professional, safest trades
18 people in the country on your property, and certainly we
19 respect you, we respect your concerns, we hold no ill
20 will towards you, this is not you on one side, us on
21 another, we are your neighbors, we're also fishermen,
22 we're also hunters, and certainly us being here is not
23 to intimidate. We have no desire to intimidate any of
24 you. We are big, we can't help that, that's the size
25 construction workers come, but if we are intimidating, I

1 certainly apologize for that, that's not our intent. In
2 fact, if this pipeline goes through, I think you'll find
3 that we'll go way out of our way to accommodate you in
4 any way we can. Also, having us here, you are educating
5 us, we're hearing your concerns, you have legitimate
6 concerns that will need to be answered by men much
7 smarter than me and women much smarter than me, but
8 bottom line is you're going to have highly skilled
9 trades people on your jobs, we're not here to
10 intimidate, and, again, we are your neighbors, your
11 friends. Thank you.

12 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. McDonald.

13 Mr. Brandon Hawkins.

14 MR. HAWKINS: Brandon Hawkins, B-r-a-n-d-o-n
15 H-a-w-k-i-n-s. I'd like to start off saying I'm a
16 laborer out of Local 499, Ann Arbor, been a laborer 12
17 years. I do support my family doing this. This
18 pipeline is going to be a good thing for us. We do work
19 ourselves out of jobs, it's what we do, but that's how
20 we choose to make our living. We have operators and
21 Teamsters and welders, and everybody needs to work.
22 We're not here against land owners. The pipeline runs
23 through some of my family's property, it's just, it is
24 what it is, and we need to work together, and I push for
25 this pipeline, and that's all I have to say.

1 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins.

2 Mr. Jason Geer.

3 MR. GEER: Good evening. Thanks for the
4 opportunity to speak with you. My name is Jason Geer,
5 G-e-e-r. I'm the Director of Energy Environmental
6 Policy for the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, and I will
7 be brief. The Michigan Chamber of Commerce strongly
8 supports the proposed Rover Pipeline and urges the
9 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission diligently and
10 efficiently in its approval for this project. The
11 Michigan Chamber promotes conditions favorable to job
12 creation and business growth, and we believe the Rover
13 Pipeline Project will benefit Michigan's economy and
14 help keep Michigan moving forward. It is estimated that
15 the pipeline will create 10,000 jobs and 13.4 million in
16 annual tax revenue for Michigan. Over the long term it
17 is estimated that Rover Pipeline will bring Michigan
18 businesses and consumers a reliable source of abundant
19 and affordable natural gas, which is critically
20 important to Michigan's economic competitiveness going
21 forward. Consumers will also benefit from long-term
22 access to affordable natural gas. Currently at least 76
23 percent of Michigan's homes are heated with natural gas.
24 As winter approaches, and it appears it's already here,
25 too many homeowners and businesses will feel the pinch

1 of rising heating costs. The Rover Pipeline through its
2 connection to the Dawn distribution hub, will deliver
3 inexpensive, affordable, and reliable heating source
4 well into the future. This proposed pipeline would be
5 the first linkage between Michigan and the country's
6 largest shale reserves, connecting Michigan to a growing
7 network of domestic energy. The 4.3 billion Rover
8 Pipeline will provide Michigan with a valuable,
9 sustainable energy resource. The sooner this project
10 begins, the sooner Michigan's hard working families and
11 job providers can reap the benefits. We urge the
12 members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to
13 act swiftly to approve the Rover Pipeline. Thank you
14 for your time.

15 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Geer.

16 Mr. Mark Wilson. Mr. Wilson?

17 Well, at this time I'd like to invite any
18 other potentially affected land owners. Yes, sir, come
19 on up.

20 Come on up.

21 MR. WILSON: Good evening. With your
22 permission, may I briefly turn and make a few comments?

23 MR. PECONOM: Please direct your comments to
24 us.

25 MR. WILSON: Okay. Again, my name is Mark

1 Wilson. I'm President of Land Stewards. I would like
2 the record to reflect that I'm here tonight and would
3 like to speak with any land owners that are still in the
4 audience. I appreciated all the comments that I heard,
5 and I tried to catch a few of them in the hallway as
6 they've left, but please, I welcome the chance to meet
7 you and talk with you. Thank you.

8 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

9 Yes, sir.

10 MR. GARMENN: My name is David Garmenn,
11 G-a-r-m-e-n-n. I'm actually a land owner affected by
12 this in Ohio, I work up here in Michigan. I'll be super
13 brief, but what baffles me is I've listened to both
14 sides, and there's very good arguments on both sides.
15 When you look at the map and you listen to the
16 conversations, I don't understand the connection. So we
17 got two things going on. We've got economics, and it
18 makes sense, I get the need for the pipeline, certainly
19 get the need for the work. What I don't understand is
20 the rest of us, the farmers are put in a bottle to feed
21 the world, and you're going to come to the pipeline with
22 a pipeline across our land, and you can -- when you get
23 up in a plane, I don't care what they say about the top
24 soil and they're going to save the top soil, and I
25 understand they'll do the best efforts, but when you fly

1 across on a plane, you can see exactly where the
2 pipelines run if it's in a planted corn field or a bean
3 field. I'm not saying they're not trying, I'm just
4 saying it's got to have long-term effects. So what I
5 don't understand, when you look at the maps at least on
6 my property on my 100 acres in Ohio and my other farm,
7 you're running along brush creek, you're not running
8 along the right-of-way. Now, if that's because they
9 want to make it shorter for the cost, then I guess
10 that's where I have a problem. If you want these people
11 to work, then make them lay some more miles of pipeline,
12 make them run along the right-of-ways along the roads,
13 along existing places, but don't come across the farm
14 land when you don't have to. Like I said, they're
15 following a brush creek, right along -- I just don't --
16 that's the connection I fail to see, as far as the
17 direct environmental impact, I don't understand why they
18 can't run it along right-of-ways so that they have the
19 least amount of impact on people's homes and the farm
20 land. So that's my major point is that leave the fields
21 alone, leave people's land alone.

22 I also, I've been through multiple meetings
23 and listened to and went to all the stops on their
24 previous format, and I still fail to see how we're all
25 going to benefit directly with the availability of the

1 natural gas. I've heard people make those comments, I
2 just haven't seen the proof. And I'd really like to see
3 the proof.

4 And, lastly, when I was at these other
5 meetings, I brought up a request specifically, and I'll
6 be honest, this is a selfish one, but for the farmers,
7 why can't we put a tap into this line, if you're going
8 to run it across my land, then part of that negotiation
9 should be to be able to put a tap in the line so I can
10 dry my corn and dry my beans at a cheaper rate, but they
11 damn near threw me out when I brought that up the last
12 time. I'm sure there's money at risk there, some of the
13 distribution people I'm sure wouldn't like that, but to
14 me, that's a logical request. If you're going to come
15 across my land, at least let me have some kind of
16 benefit from it. This isn't about the money, because
17 the money is a one-time hit, right. You're not going to
18 pay me ongoing to lease access to that land, you're
19 going to pay me one time to come in and tear it up and
20 put it back. Then I supposedly get it back at lower
21 yields, but I get it back. So I'm only getting one
22 time -- paid one time by this deal. So this isn't about
23 the money. I don't care whether you take eminent domain
24 or not, this isn't about the money. Now, I really have
25 a big problem with eminent domain, but I won't go there.

1 But, to me, those are my two big issues, is let the
2 farmer and even the households, let them have access to
3 this at a lower rate. Those are my points.

4 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

5 Yes, sir.

6 MR. HORNING: I'm Earl Horning, and I asked to
7 speak. Could I do it at this time?

8 MR. PECONOM: Yes, sir.

9 MR. HORNING: I'm Earl Horning. The name is
10 H-o-r-n-i-n-g. I live here in Washtenaw County in
11 Freedom Township. I'm a dairy farmer. I've lived here
12 all my life, my family, this is the sixth generation of
13 our family farming this location. We've had a lot of
14 issues and ideas and things have happened with
15 pipelines, the importance of pipelines and what they do
16 and how they work. I've had pipelines on my property
17 for 60-plus years. There's Panhandle Eastern, Consumers
18 Energy, there's Wolverine, there's Enbridge, there's a
19 whole group of pipelines across my land at this time.
20 And what this gentleman just brought out I think is
21 very, very important, that the pipelines need to
22 consider where they put their lines in relation to the
23 land they use, because once they've done it, it's only
24 one time, once they're there, we can't change, we can't
25 go sell it off for development or we can't sell it for

1 some other improvement or change in what we do. So,
2 therefore, it's very important where this all ends up
3 and where it works.

4 I've had natural gas at my farm for 50 years,
5 very, very important to my business, very cheap energy,
6 but how it got there and what it did, it was lines that
7 came back in the 40s. Those lines have been -- some of
8 them have been very minimal as far as the maintenance
9 and upkeep of them, but others of them have been
10 terrible. They've laid lines and three years later they
11 come back, lay a new line, they fix lines, do this, do
12 that, and it's very difficult for me to keep track of
13 all these people because usually the people that were
14 there three years ago are not there today, so they don't
15 understand what they're talking about.

16 Specifically in the summer I had a line that
17 needed to be repaired. They came in and repaired the
18 line, we cleaned everything up, fixed everything, and
19 when they got done, when I went to harvest that field, I
20 had to come and come back, call the people back to the
21 area and find out that they really hadn't done a good
22 job at all, because they took fence, they shoved it in
23 the field, had to do this and do that, because you don't
24 feed metal and dirt and things to cows that would cause
25 a problem. So I understand pipelines from a long way

1 back. There's always somebody needing to fix something
2 or to take care of something. So the compliments about
3 the people that are working here, you guys all, I
4 challenge you for the things you do, you probably all
5 are good operators and what you work on, equipment --

6 MS. HARRIS: Would you please address the
7 panel.

8 MR. HORNING: Excuse me. Anyway, I compliment
9 them for that. But some of the skills, I challenge
10 these groups of people to meet with the agricultural
11 industry to improve their skills as far as where they
12 work and how they return the soil to the things that
13 they need. I don't -- I think that the audience has
14 been patient here tonight, some of the things maybe I
15 didn't comment correctly, but I believe that there's
16 some opportunity for both of us to learn from this and
17 that we don't just jump in and say we're going to build
18 the Rover Pipeline, because there's some issues I've
19 seen that they've not done a good job at all. With
20 that, I'll end my comments and thank you.

21 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Horning.

22 MR. KIMBALL: Good evening. You'll have to
23 forgive me, I'm both nervous and underdressed. I didn't
24 think I was going to get up to speak, but my son, my
25 13-year-old son sent me a text, and I just couldn't

1 leave the meeting without saying something. I'm a land
2 owner and --

3 MR. PECONOM: State your name.

4 MR. KIMBALL: Kimball, K-i-m-b-a-l-l, sorry
5 about that. I guess a lot of things have been said on
6 both sides, and there's just one element that I
7 personally wanted to take a minute to share before I
8 leave, take my poor daughter home.

9 I want to communicate what it feels like to be
10 a land owner just briefly. For those of us that own
11 acreage, for those of us that are farmers, the land is
12 more than just crop fields and swamps and forests. For
13 most of us, it's how we earn our living, it's where we
14 make the money to keep a roof over our head. For those
15 of us that hunt, it's where we get food to feed our
16 family every year, and for most of us it's how we
17 recreate. We're not going to spend the evening with our
18 feet up. A lot of times we're going to go work in the
19 workshop or take a walk through the woods or check on
20 the animals in the fields. And so when you talk about
21 building a pipeline across a portion of my land, it's
22 not just that you're cutting through a piece of pasture,
23 it's that you are taking what I work every day to
24 keep -- it's that -- it's that you're taking what I hope
25 to pass on to my family. I guarantee that every farmer

1 in this audience wakes up in the morning and they're
2 thinking two things. They're thinking how do I keep the
3 legacy that my family has worked so hard to give to me,
4 and how do I make sure that that legacy is passed on to
5 my children and my children's children.

6 And so a pipeline that I don't have a right to
7 stop, a pipeline where now there's 50 feet that I can't
8 do what I want with, they're going to take a 50-foot
9 swath of my trees down, and I just read in the
10 literature that 30 to 50 feet outside that pipeline you
11 can't plant trees again. I'm never going to get those
12 back. It's not that -- if in 50 years my children could
13 enjoy that forest, that would be something, but what's
14 being taken from me I can't ever get back and I can't
15 pass it onto my children, and my problem is that I wake
16 up every single morning, and I think to myself how can I
17 make a legacy for my kids and my grand kids. And it's
18 not about whether or not they're going to do a great job
19 building a pipeline. It's not about whether or not
20 they're competent. It's that they're taking something
21 that I'm never going to get back, and that's what it
22 feels like to be a land owner. Imagine if it was your
23 house. We live on the land. I spend far more time
24 outside than I do inside. Imagine if it were your
25 house, and they said, look, we're only going to take two

1 feet of your living room, and in two or three years it's
2 going to look almost exactly like it did before we went
3 there as long as you don't put any furniture there,
4 there's just a couple small things you can't do with
5 that two feet of space, it's still your house, and
6 pretty soon it's going to look almost like it did before
7 we come in, there's just a couple things you can never
8 do there again. That's what it feels like to be a land
9 owner and to have a pipeline come through the property.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. PECONOM: Thank you. I just want to thank
12 everyone for their comments. Your comments tonight have
13 been very helpful to us. They will help the Commission
14 staff focus its environmental review. So thank you
15 again.

16 MS. HARRIS: I'll briefly mention the FERC
17 website www.ferc.gov. Within our website you'll find a
18 link called e-library where you can find all the
19 information available on this project under Docket
20 Number PF14-14. You can also e-subscribe within our
21 website as well, you can get electronic information,
22 and, also, through e-mail. I would like to thank you
23 for coming tonight. This meeting is adjourned.

24 (The meeting was concluded at 8:55 p.m.)

25