

Dear fellow citizen and neighbor,

Save Scenic Jefferson Valley Coalition and *Concerned Citizens Montana* respectfully ask you to consider helping local citizens in danger of having their land condemned for the massive towers, 500 kV buzzing lines, strobe lights, and access roads of Mountain States Transmission Intertie (“MSTI”) – all for the benefit of its owners and users elsewhere.

MSTI may indeed offer genuine benefits elsewhere, but NorthWestern Energy (NWE) and the State of Montana propose to run it through the **front yard** (not the backyard) of greater Whitehall, Jefferson Valley, and Boulder Valley. We have questions about that:

- 1) Why should our community bear the costs of corporations’ profits?
- 2) Why do other populated areas along proposed MSTI routes fight the 500 kV towers and lines like a plague?
- 3) Should our community be concerned, like others, that 500 kV lines carry increased risk of childhood leukemia and other health problems?
- 4) What evidence do we have that property tax revenues from MSTI will *pay* Jefferson County more than MSTI will *damage* Jefferson County?
- 5) Should the 200 tallest buildings in greater Whitehall be 12-story MSTI towers? Is that our vision for the future? Won’t our community feel betrayed by NWE and our governments if we find later that MSTI is bigger and uglier than we expected?
- 6) **Where is the evidence** that MSTI will contribute to (and not *harm*) local economic development in real and lasting ways?

We encourage you to look fully at NorthWestern Energy’s promotional materials for MSTI. You’ll see that the hype melts to nothing where our community is concerned! **MSTI is not the railroad or the interstate highway. All we can do with MSTI is look at it. Forever.**

Even if MSTI would not pass over your home, it would pass near enough to affect your ultimate property value and quality of life. We hope you will reflect upon the irreversible change MSTI will make to the landscape we love. Would you vote for a safer and more scenic future for greater Whitehall, Jefferson Valley, and Boulder Valley? Would you speak up for those whose land would be condemned and whose children would play within the 500 kV electromagnetic field? If you see things our way, would you please support us by using the enclosed postcards? Governor Schweitzer and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality are deciding MSTI’s route right now, and we must have faith these officials consider community interests.

Thank you so much for your consideration,

Save Scenic Jefferson Valley Coalition

Concerned Citizens Montana

www.SaveScenicJV.org

www.ConcernedCitizensMontana.net