

**Testimony on SB 93 before the
Senate Utilities Committee
By
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Good morning Chairman Emler and members of the committee.

I am Mark Schreiber, manager government affairs for Westar Energy. We oppose Senate Bill 93 because it denies a utility of a basic right it uses to ensure the construction of utility facilities.

Westar Energy works diligently with landowners whenever the need arises to procure easements or property for the siting of generation or transmission. At times, the parties cannot agree on compensation and as a last resort we may use our power of eminent domain as a certificated utility. The need for eminent domain is present regardless of the type of generation or transmission being sited.

Eminent domain is used only as a last resort. However, when necessary, its use allows the completion of energy projects that can benefit large regions of the state.

Westar Energy urges this committee to oppose Senate Bill 93. Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.