



# Missouri Ethics Commission

Elizabeth L. Ziegler  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Final Action: MEC No. 24-0037-I, John Hobbs, Randolph Co. Commissioner**

**Date: July 16, 2024**

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against Randolph County Commissioner, John Hobbs at its July 15, 2024, meeting.

The complaint filed with the Commission alleged that Commissioner Hobbs had a conflict of interest when he voted to accept a proposed road use agreement, through the county. Grain Belt Express, a project of Invenergy, is an electric transmission line which connects four states across 800 miles. The project, which will pass through Randolph County, Missouri, has been in the works for more than a decade.

The investigation showed that approximately 15 acres of Commissioner Hobbs property will be affected by this project. He was paid a fair market value of the property, and that agreement is similar as those negotiated and formalized with other affected Randolph County property owners. By the county commission accepting the road use agreement, Invenergy would be responsible for maintaining and repairing roads which they damage, whereas, had the property been obtained through eminent domain, Invenergy would not be responsible. There was no evidence that Commissioner Hobbs was compensated for his land in a substantially different manner than the way similarly situated individuals were compensated.

From the facts presented, the Commission found no reasonable grounds exist to support a violation of Chapter 105, RSMo, and dismissed the complaint.

Elizabeth L. Ziegler  
Executive Director