

**Jessica Merriam**

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**From:** Penny Book <plb3sons@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 7, 2025 8:40 AM  
**To:** PCD Hearings  
**Subject:** Opposition to Xcel Power Pathway  
**Attachments:** Opposition to Xcel.docx

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My name is Penny Book.  
Phone number is 719-478-6027  
Project File Name is. AASI231  
Areas and activities of state interest permit (1041) Colorado's Xcel Power Pathway  
I plan to participate in person.

Sincerely, Penny Book

Dear Ms. Parsons:

My name is Penny Book, 38555 Book Rd. Rush, CO 80833. One of Xcel's original proposed routes went right through the middle of our land. Xcel has since chosen another route which is a few miles east of us - for which we are so very grateful. But it has come to my attention that the Planning Department and maybe County Commissioners haven't received much opposition to this project lately, so they may think everyone is in support of this project. I wrote to all commissioners, the PUC, congressmen and even the Colorado Sun in opposition to this project back in 2022 and my stance has not changed. I attended meetings, including county commissioner's meeting at which I spoke of the negative effects of this power pathway. So I was surprised when studying the proposal recently, I only saw one letter in opposition. Letters and opinions from 2022 are not being considered evidently. Even though this powerline is not supposed to go through our land, I will still stand up for my neighbors. Xcel has proposed a 560 mile, 345 Kilovolt transmission through property in Eastern Colorado to help provide an "ever cleaner power supply".

We would like your support in trying to stop this proposal.

People in the Front Range feel that the Eastern Plains are fair game for buying easements for putting in these mammoth poles with no consequences. Xcel made a proposal to the PUC in March, 2021. They described where I live on the Eastern Plains as a "clean energy highway". They described my home and that of all my rural neighbors as the "clean energy-rich eastern plains of Colorado". We will not benefit from this mammoth transmission line. It will provide energy for the Front Range, wind turbines and solar farms. These lines, turbines and farms will destroy what we have lived to preserve on this land. It seems like the Eastern Plains are up for grabs. But this is our land. This is an unwanted invasion of our way of life. The state won't let the lines be placed on state owned land but it is okay with them going through private land. Help me understand that logic.

These are the reasons I oppose The Colorado Power Pathway Project:

1. If you read the presentation from Xcel to the PUC, you will read about the energy highways of the eastern Plains. It all sounds wonderful if you don't take into consideration the people who live on those Plains. My grandchildren are 5th generation on this ranch. Agriculture - ranching and farming - are not easy occupations. It is a 24/7 job through all weather and you can't usually make a living off of the land. It takes another income (or 2) to make it work. So why in the world would somebody choose this life!? The air is pure. The peacefulness is indescribable. Looking out my window, seeing the unobstructed view of the mountains is priceless. Raising children in the country, teaching values and a work ethic is probably the most important reason for living where we do and doing what we do.

Nobody considered the impact on our lives because few people who live in cities understand our way of life. I enjoy the city - to visit. I do it often, multiple times a week. Colorado Springs is my

home, also. Shopping, doctors, church, activities, and business keep us going to Colorado Springs all the time. People who live in cities, however, don't have opportunities to learn what it is like to live in the country nor why we live here.

2. In the name of progress, people have always - taken - without understanding the ramifications to those whose land was taken. Native Americans lost their land and the animals they hunted - because it was there for the taking. Free grazers lost their ability to drive herds across the country due to fencing. Land grabs have happened all through history by those who are bigger, stronger and have more money.

Xcel's transmission line is necessary to provide power to Denver but it is coming through our land. Even though it isn't coming directly through my land, I am still impacted. Our roads are badly in need of maintenance. The resulting traffic of putting these huge lines through will cause much damage to the roads. The line is necessary to provide power for wind and solar farms, which will cause even more negative environmental and community impact. The wind and solar farms are necessary because our governor wants Colorado to lead the way to renewable energy - green energy - by 2040.

3. The race is on. And that is my biggest objection. We are asked to let huge transmission lines go across rural land in order for us all to be 100% renewable energy by 2040. It's not green to produce these transmission lines, windmill or solar farms. Then they produce for 20 years - then what? Very smart people are trying to figure out what to do with solar panel, propellers, etc. But they are not there yet - or at least not that I know of. Construction and deconstruction of wind and solar farms certainly aren't green! The problem, as I see it, is it is a RACE!! Don't allow this project without knowing the full impact on all of us.

Thank you for your time.

Penny and Lanny Book

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