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In Texas we have frequent power outages. Even relatively minor storms can leave neighborhoods without power. State Energy Regulators want to fix this dire issue by creating three 765 kilovolt ultra-high-voltage transmission lines. These lines would be enormous and carry enough power to hopefully stop these common outages. The main problem is that they want to seize parts of private land to build these power lines. Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and others have since blocked these lines from being built and have said that they must find a way to build these without encroaching on private property. The reason the Lt. Governor did this was because of a fifteen hour long hearing on the matter where 200 property owners testified that if these lines were built on their land it could deeply hurt the environment of their properties. They also argued that this power system was only being built so that Oil and Gas as well as Data Centers could have a boost in their production, not the local rural communities that also have the problem. Several Republican Senators then went and called out Oil and Gas claiming that they produce more Natural Gas than they can sell so they need to start using it to create their own power because they certainly have the money. This also had several Senators claiming that Data Centers might start increasing in their numbers and again overload the system starting the problem again. This raised the question on if more power is being put in the system then how do we regulate if it is being given to companies or the people since both have the right to public power, but how do we regulate how much goes to either? This demonstrates the principles of federalism that Chapter 3 introduces. These State Energy regulators wanted to build powerlines which local communities thought would hurt them, so they used their power to have a hearing which inspired State Senators to start backing them and had the powerlines paused.

The main reason I chose this article was because for the past few years my family has dealt with some sort of bi-monthly power outage along with my whole neighborhood. It has been so bad that we got a third party to put a battery on our house to avoid the outages. I also was interested since I met Dan Patrick yesterday on the 30th. I am personally and very interested in how this plays out because if they do end-up building the 3 power lines then how will it really affect those Rural communities? Will it harm them or not affect them at all? I also am concerned that when they do this, the Data Center really will just keep popping up and take up all this power and if they lobby even harder than they already do then it could be harmful for the people who actually have to deal with them which is everyone in the Country, not just the state.

<https://texasstandard.org/stories/texas-power-lines-blackouts-landowner-opposition/>