

Edmonton Sun, Sunday September 18, 2011, Letters to the Editor

### KILL Bill 50

Of all its recent undemocratic bills, Bill 50 frustrates me the most! Bill 50 removes the authority of the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) whose mandate was to prevent overbuilding. Now it is the premier and his cabinet, not the experts, who decide when it is necessary for transmission lines to be built. This resulted in the Cabinet approving \$16 billion worth of new line construction without a needs assessment or cost controls. It is the consumers of electricity who pay to build these lines, which donated to the big power companies. Then each month, electricity consumers pay a fee to for the transmission line, a fee to use the ine and another fee to guarantee the power companies get a nine percent profit. Is \$16 billion worth of power lines necessary for Alberta to prosper? The experts say no! So why is there such a push for mega upgrades if Alberta has sufficient power? In the May 17, 2011 an article based on new WikiLeaks cables proved the Stelmach cabinet has lied to Albertans about the need for more power lines. The experts, The Alberta Utilities Commission, as well as the province's major industries stated Alberta generates more than enough reliable power. This surplus power will be exported to the U.S. at our cost! How will you cope when your power bill and cost of living triples? Contact the premier and MLAs and demand that this Bill 50 be rescinded.

Michelle Pitre

(A fine idea. Take back some control over government!)