

Advocate Talking Points  
LG&E Pipeline & Interstate 65-71 Regional Connector

*Here are talking points that may be helpful in talking about the LG&E Pipeline proposal and the Interstate 65-71 Regional Connector*

Pipeline

- LG&E wants to run a natural gas pipeline across conservation land, impacting natural springs and wildlife.
  - Bernheim opposes the proposed route due to the environmental impact it will have on this land.
  - The land in question is North of Bernheim's main entrance, in the newly purchased Cedar Grove Tract
  - The land in question is protected by conservation easement and deed restrictions, which specifically prohibit use for gas pipelines and other utilities.
  - This issue is bigger than Bernheim - if courts allow the seizure of our land despite the easements, it could set a legal precedent that would jeopardize all conservation easements, both in the state and the country.
- LG&E officially filed a condemnation suit in Bullitt County Circuit Court on July 30, 2019.
- Bernheim filed an official complaint with the Public Services Commission on August 2, 2019 claiming it allowed LG&E to keep the news of the pipeline hidden from the public while potential routes were under study.
- On August 16, the Kentucky Attorney General's office announced that they would like to expand the scope of Bernheim's complaint with the PSC. The motion says LG&E has willfully violated safety standards and landowners deserve to know the pipelines running across their property meet these standards. It further argues that LG&E used its status as a monopoly to pressure landowners and others to agree to its projects.

Regional Connector

- Plans for the proposed Interstate 65-71 Regional Connector bypassing Louisville includes several routes that would cut directly across Bernheim and impact our pristine waterways and land.

- HDR, the firm designing the potential routes for the Connector, currently has 12 potential routes for Kentucky Department of Transportation to consider.
  - Bernheim property would be affected by 5 of the proposed routes.
  - One of the proposed routes would develop KY 245 into a major highway at Bernheim's main entrance, irreparably damaging the visitor experience.
  - The list of potential routes will be narrowed down to 3 in November. Our goal is to keep Bernheim property out of the final list.

#### Additional Messages

- Bernheim is not opposed to development but is opposed to the use of conservation land for these purposes.
- Bernheim's 16,000+ acres protect the clean air, clean water and critical wildlife habitats the forest provides. Sections of the land, including those threatened by LG&E and the regional connector, have conservation easements and deed restrictions set in place specifically to protect the forest.
- Bernheim is a national treasure, providing scenic beauty, brings joy to hundreds of thousands of visitors each year and promotes tourism for our region.
- Bernheim is your forest too! Help us fight to protect our conservation lands. You can find an advocacy tool kit with letters, emails, a petition, and more at <http://forestunderthreat.com>.

#### What can your friends and family do to help?

- Visit the website set up just for these issues: [forestunderthreat.com](http://forestunderthreat.com) where they can:
  - Send emails directly to key people/organizations related to these threats
  - Sign petitions against each project
  - Learn about where they can get a yard sign
  - View the calendar of upcoming Bernheim Under Threat Roadshows
  - Find the Advocacy Toolkit, where they can find everything they need to spread the word including talking points, email templates, social media images and more.
- Become a Bernheim advocate – visit [forestunderthreat.com](http://forestunderthreat.com) for a toolkit
- Attend a Roadshow (calendar available at [forestunderthreat.com](http://forestunderthreat.com)) – we want to show strong community support at each event.
- SPREAD THE WORD! Talk to friends, friends of friends, family, and more.