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By LINDA VAN ART | La Crosse lacrossetribune.com | Posted: Friday, November 11, 2011 12:00 am |

On Monday, the Holmen School Board will discuss a resolution opposing the high voltage power line from Alma to Madison. A major concern is the proximity of the line to three schools and the district office.

Since 1979, studies have shown a 2-3 times higher rate of childhood cancers in children who live close to a high voltage line. Recent studies show an increased risk of Alzheimer's and other dementias in adults who live close to a line. Power companies deny any health risk. They say that persistent statistical correlations noted for 32 years mean nothing.

Epidemiologists worldwide disagree. They have used these correlations to craft public policy to protect people from the electromagnetic fields from power lines. Statistics, after all, someone once said, are human beings with the tears wiped off.

Twelve first-world countries regulate human exposure to EMF's from power lines. Japan, Belgium and Indonesia require the lines to be buried. In the U.S. there are no federal laws regulating EMF exposure. One might think our government puts the convenience of power companies over protection of its citizens.

In our country, only local government ordinances have regulated EMF exposure. The people in La Crosse County are asking the county board to protect us. Hopefully our local representatives will put health of citizens over profits of power companies.

If you are concerned about the high voltage power line, call your county board person. You can get contact info from the county clerk at 785-9581.