

**BASIN ELECTRIC
POWER COOPERATIVE**

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July 1, 2015

The Honorable Chris Nelson
Chairman
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RE: Docket HP14-001 - In the Matter of the Petition of TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP for Order Accepting Certification of Permit Issued in Docket HP09-001 to Construct the Keystone XL Pipeline

Dear Chairman Nelson:

On behalf of Basin Electric Power Cooperative I am writing in support of the above docket regarding certification of TransCanada's permit to construct the Keystone XL pipeline in South Dakota. Basin Electric is a regional, consumer-owned, power supplier formed in 1961 to provide supplemental power to a consortium of electric distribution cooperatives. As one of the largest power providers in South Dakota, we are especially interested in the Keystone XL pipeline and its role as a part of our nation's all of the above energy strategy.

Our cooperative members across the region are seeing increased growth in residential, consumer, and industrial electric loads, and the Keystone XL pipeline is an important part of planning for the future of electricity supply. The pipeline will travel through several of our member's service territories in South Dakota, and the compressor stations will be among the largest electrical loads for our members. Ancillary development of generation and transmission in the region to serve those loads will further support our nation's electrical infrastructure, making the Keystone XL pipeline a win-win for energy development.

Again, Basin Electric supports TransCanada's application for certification and urge the applications approval. Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Sukut', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Paul Sukut
CEO & General Manager

pms/clv

cc: The Honorable Kristie Fiegen, Vice Chairman, South Dakota PUC
The Honorable Gary Hanson, Commissioner, South Dakota PUC