

PUC Members;

As a concerned landowner with property on the route of Trans Canada Pipeline ^{one of} the local issues is leaks and the resulting contamination of the soil. Accessibility is also a concern as we only have access where the pipeline is proposed. Leaks could lead to major liability issues and devaluation of highly productive farm land, not to mention our water supply and ground water.

Trans Canada also passes through and is adjacent to (for several miles) a major watershed drainage ditch in the area called Crow Creek. This ditch empties into a very large water fowl and game production area just a few miles west that eventually leads to the James river and on to the Gulf of Mexico.

There are unanswered questions such as what becomes of Trans Canada pipeline at the end of its' useful life possibly in 20-30 years. ^{Trans Canada says 50.} Do we then have a rusting, contaminated piece of iron beneath our topsoil, possible cave-ins and even more liability issues? The Alaskan pipeline is above ground and leaks went undetected for months before a passerby reported the problem. Supposedly they have the same state of the art leak detection systems that Trans Canada will utilize.

Our president and our Congress have proposed and passed bold new energy legislation to reduce our dependence on imported oil and pursue new energy alternatives. This is the much larger issue. As responsible citizens of this country and the world we must be vigilant and pursue these alternatives to the fullest to protect our economic and national security. We must practice conservation, develop solar power, wind energy, renewable fuels such as biodiesel and ethanol, and the ultimate

energy; hydrogen. We must not only follow the lead of countries such as Brazil, Norway and Sweden on the road to energy independence, we must become a world leader in the development and production of these alternatives using our own natural resources. If we are truly dedicated to energy independence and the environment, we must take back our country from the oil companies and give it back to the people. Based on energy legislation coming from our president and congress, Trans Canada pipeline and the oil they plan to import, appears to be a step away from energy independence and freedom from imported oil. At this point in time it is obsolete on the drawing board,

If we must utilize the type of tar sands and oil shales to produce the oil that will be pumped through the pipeline and if we are dedicated to energy independence, we have the same tar sands and oil shales in the western Dakotas and Montana. Let's utilize our own natural and human resources if we must use fossil fuels for the short term.

From an efficiency and economic as well as environmental stand point the I-29 corridor is the best route. The right of way is already provided, valuable farmland is not taken out of production that is providing energy alternative and access is immediate from the highway. I strongly favor the I-29 route if we must have this pipeline.

Sincerely,

Gene Fisher

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Concerned landowner

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