



**midwest alliance
for infrastructure now**

October 27, 2015

**TO: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
FROM: Midwest Alliance for Infrastructure Now
RE: Dakota Access Pipeline Support**

RECEIVED

OCT 30 2015

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

I am writing today to show my support for the Dakota Access Pipeline that is currently planned for construction across North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Illinois. This pipeline is about transporting American oil for American needs, and investing in the economic future of our region. That's why I joined the Midwest Alliance for Infrastructure Now, a diverse organization made up of over 40 organizations across North and South Dakota, Iowa, and Illinois. Our members come from all walks of life and from many vocations including, agriculture, small business, labor, and construction.

I share the same concern for our land as many of the opponents of this project, and believe that projects of this scale should spur informed debate. But taking a realistic, fact-based approach to this issue makes me believe that pipelines are the best option to transport oil, and an important infrastructure project that can grow our economy, create jobs, and protect the interests of traditional Midwestern business. Our nation needs access in the near term to low-cost energy, and we must make the most responsible decisions about our current energy resources.

American agriculture is highly dependent on petroleum development. The simple fact is that the less oil we process domestically, the more we will have to import from foreign countries. Sourcing increased energy and oil from abroad can drive up energy prices for farmers who need gasoline and diesel for the majority of their farm equipment. Those costs, which impact a farmer's bottom line, are then passed along to the consumer and cause higher food prices both here in the Midwest and in cities throughout the country. The Midwest Alliance for Infrastructure Now believes that pipelines are an answer to climbing energy prices, as well as the transportation challenges that plague the agricultural sector as a result of oil trains.

Many opponents erroneously believe that if you stop the pipeline, you stop the oil. The rail systems in America are being inundated with oil tankers. Rail traffic has increased so dramatically that many farmers are being held ransom for rail space and some are actually being refused transport for grain because of long-term contracts to haul oil. The American Farm Bureau recently completed a study which placed the total loss for farmers as a result of the rail backlog at \$570 million for the 2014 harvest. Pipeline construction will help to alleviate the backlog and free up transport space for important agricultural commodities.

This project will provide our local economies a much needed positive boost. The construction alone will create thousands of jobs for American workers who will spend money and support local services during construction. Counties along the route will also receive ongoing property tax revenue for schools, services, and infrastructure creating a vibrant local economy. I have lived here my entire life and have seen first-hand the tremendous effects that this "pipeline economy" can bring to these communities. Everyone from the local banker all the way down to the smallest mom-and-pop shop is impacted when real money is injected into the economy. This isn't just another stimulus fund that is spent on road construction and then evaporates. This is real long-term economic growth, and is good for the future of business in our region.

Our coalition supports economic opportunity for the Midwest, energy security, and a business landscape that encourages growth and development across all sectors. We believe that the best interests of our region should drive the decision-making process, not the work of outside activist groups whose ultimate goal is to stop the use of the crude oil that we all rely upon every day. We should say yes to billions in investment, millions in tax revenue, thousands of jobs, and a new economic future for our communities.

Sincerely,

Ed Wiederstein
Chairman, Midwest Alliance for Infrastructure Now

015891

1601 150th Street
Audubon, IA 50025

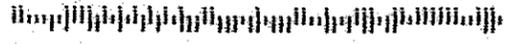
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South Dakota Public Utilities
Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

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To: PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Capital Building 1st Fl
500 E. Capital Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: 605-773-3201
Attn: Commissioner- Chris Nelson
Commissioner – Gary Hanson
Acting Comm – Rich Sattgast

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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Devona B. Smith, along with my two sisters Delores Assid and Margaret Hilt are the landowners in Lincoln County, South Dakota, affected by the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline.

The land was homesteaded by my grandfather, Henry Andreessen in 1983. The land was passed down to my parents Martin and Elsie Andreessen where we grew up. When my parents died, the land was passed down to the three of us who rent the land to a farmer who grows corn and soybeans. My two nieces and two nephews will inherit the land when I and my two sisters pass way. The project will ruin the land for future generations.

The Dakota Access Pipeline wants eminent domain power to put a pipeline through South Dakota which would cross 160 acres of our inherited land. It would split the quarter section near Sioux Falls, Tea and Lennox in half. It would run close to the farm buildings and water to the house. Nearby cities and towns are growing at a rapid pace.

If the Dakota Access Pipeline incurs a leak are we covered by liability insurance? I have seen notices where Dakota Access Pipeline won't divulge their insurance coverage. Does South Dakota know how to handle a leak? We would remain with damaged land, a great liability and the anticipation of polluted water systems.

My understanding is that most of the labor to install the pipeline would come from out of state. What does South Dakota get out of the project? False and inflated promises of tax income.

Do not let this go through. Please stop the pipeline from destroying our land. Let's take action and make this state great again. You have the power to do that. Please do not let us down.

Devona B. Smith

[Redacted] Centennial, CO 80121

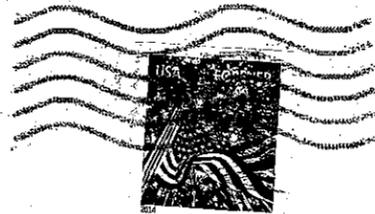
[Redacted]

Devona B. Smith

 **Ms. Devona B. Smith**
Centennial, CO 80121

DENVER CO 802

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*Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building - 1st floor
500 East Capitol Ave.
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070*

*Attn - Commissioner Chris Nelson
- Gary Hanson
Acting Comm - Rich Sattgast*

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Chris Nelson, Chairperson
Kristie Fiegen, Vice Chairperson
Gary Hanson, Commissioner

South Dakota

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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(605) 773-5280

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Email
puc@state.sd.us

October 30, 2015

Chairman Ed Wiederstein
Midwest Alliance for Infrastructure Now
1601 150th St
Audubon, IA 50025

Dear Chairman Wiederstein:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline. It is posted in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's formal pipeline siting docket, HP14-002, under Comments and Responses.

The docket may be found online at www.puc.sd.gov by clicking on Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Hydrocarbon Pipeline Dockets, 2014 Hydrocarbon Pipeline Dockets, and then HP14-002. Since this is an open docket before the commission, correspondence is posted in the open, public docket so that the other commissioners and all parties to the case have access to it.

I have enclosed a Pipeline Siting Guide and Dakota Access Frequently-Asked-Questions document linked to the commission's website home page which you may find of interest.

Sincerely,

Chris Nelson



Chris Nelson, Chairperson
Kristie Fiegen, Vice Chairperson
Gary Hanson, Commissioner

South Dakota

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October 30, 2015

Devona Smith
[REDACTED]

Centennial, CO 80121

Dear Ms. Smith:

This is in response to your letter regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline permit application request currently open before the commission.

The pipeline project's evidentiary hearing concluded Oct. 9 and no decision has been made yet on the pipeline permit application. Dakota Access filed their application on Dec. 15, 2014; therefore, the commission will issue a decision by Dec. 15, 2015 to stay within the one-year statutory limit.

The various parties are now drafting their post-hearing briefs per the schedule posted in the docket on Oct. 13:

- Nov. 6 – Briefs due from all parties
- Nov. 20 – Reply briefs due
- Nov. 30 – Oral decision
- Dec. 15 – Statutory deadline for final commission decision

A synopsis of the permit application review process is provided in the Pipeline Siting Guide linked to the commission's homepage online and enclosed. This is also addressed in the Dakota Access Pipeline Frequently-Asked-Questions document online and enclosed.

I encourage you to read through these as well as documents and testimony filed in the docket that address your questions. You can find the docket by going to www.puc.sd.gov and clicking on Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Hydrocarbon Pipeline Dockets, 2014 Hydrocarbon Pipeline Dockets, and HP14-002.

Thank you for writing. I appreciate your concerns as well as those of your family members as landowners along the proposed project route. Your letter and my response will be posted under Comments and Responses in the formal docket so my fellow commissioners and all parties to the open, public docket have access to them.

Sincerely,

Chris Nelson

015896

From: PUC

Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 12:59 PM

To: 'john@mcgreevyassoc.com'

Subject: HP14-002

Mayor Lawler:

Thank you for your message regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline docket currently before the commission. Your message and my response will be posted in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's formal pipeline siting docket, HP14-002, under Comments and Responses. Here is a link to the docket:
<http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/HydrocarbonPipeline/2014/hp14-002.aspx>

Since this is an open docket before the commission and commissioners have yet to vote on the proposed projects permits, correspondence is posted in the open, public docket so the other commissioners and all parties to the case have access to the information you shared with me.

I very much appreciate you writing regarding the city of Tea's involvement with the pipeline project and routing.

Commissioner Gary Hanson
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
www.puc.sd.gov

015897