
From: Bilka, Daniel James - SDSU Student [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 12:26 PM
To: Fiegen, Kristie; Nelson, Chris; Hanson, Gary
Cc: Scott Parsley; Leslie Heinemann; Wollmann, Rep
Subject: Dakota Access Pipeline-Comments:
Importance: High

To the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission:

I am writing in regards to the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline and thus its implications for the state and the residents: Below is the rebuttal **followed** by my own comments and reflections.

Docket Number: HP14-002

I **oppose** the construction of the proposed Dakota Access crude oil pipeline because it will pose a threat of serious injury to the environment and current or future inhabitants. The pipeline will substantially impair the health, safety and welfare of South Dakota communities. The pipeline will destroy natural resources that are needed to sustain South Dakota as a leader in agriculture and tourism. Also, South Dakota does not have state inspectors or funds to protect citizens from pipeline accidents.

The Dakota Access Pipeline would not serve the good of the public. It is all risk and no reward for South Dakota and its residents. The pipeline would be a negative legacy for all South Dakotans.

The potential impact of an oil spill or leak to water and land quality for both private and public lands would be devastating and costly to South Dakota's communities.

The remedy that I seek is to outright deny a permit to construct the Dakota Access crude oil pipeline in South Dakota.

My own thoughts and reflections:

One of the most critical points which I have run across in my research on this, is who is liable if something should go wrong? Does the company which constructs or operates such a pipeline have a requirement to have insurance for such a critical disaster? Last I knew, they did not. The result would be the state and the people of South Dakota would be left footing the bill for the cleanup, and live with the consequences of others selfish actions. It is indeed all risk and no rewards for South Dakota. The first Keystone Pipeline has failed to live up to the promises made.

Another disagreement I have with pipelines as such is their focus as super-specificity of one component focus. They are infrastructure created for one specific use, to one benefit. I will be completely honest that I adamantly believe that rail is a much better means of transportation. I say this knowing full well that there are dangers and accidents which can happen with rail as we have seen before. However, *if* there is such an accident, there is only a set number of cars (i.e 110) which could rupture and the environmental damage would be on the surface where it is easier to contain and mitigate. This is opposed to an underground pipeline which may leak unchecked until the damage has already been done and there is nothing we can use to clean the ground, groundwater and aquifers from this contamination. Rail also can serve many needs using the same infrastructure, Ms. Fiegen, you probably remember me contacting you last year about the same.

As I have said in an open letter to Senator Thune this summer, our infrastructure (transportation, utility, and otherwise) is becoming highly antiquated compared to the rest of the developed world. We need to reinvest in our county and our state but do it in a wise manner which doesn't have the serious repercussions pipelines do.

Madison Daily Leader: http://www.dailyleaderextra.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/article_33072146-2fed-11e5-8e0d-bf4ed5e0e8f4.html

Letter to the Editor - Daily Leader Extra : Letters To The Editor

Letter to Senator Thune:

[Read more...](#)

Our Energy Sources:

One of the most critical points which I feel is continually left out of such conversations is the fact these pipelines promote dependence on fossil fuels. Regardless of your own personal beliefs on climate change et. al., one must remember that fossil fuels are non-renewable. There only is a finite amount of this energy source. Regardless if one sips it or guzzles it, there will be a time when this energy source runs out. Energy talks today generally focus on conservation of the use of the energy rather than were this energy is sourced from in the first place. The natural forces of this earth produce countless times more energy than we could ever conceivably need; we just need to develop more efficient means to capture, store, and use this energy. We must as a state, country, society, and world start developing and using more of these technologies now. I do not say this lightly for I drive a Chevy Silverado and definitely feel the pain at the pump.

Save dead dinosaurs from heating and powering our homes and businesses and save them for our vehicles, equipment and other non stationary objects until we find sources for these too. It is better to work towards these now before we have to go off fossil fuels cold-turkey or suffer another oil embargo crisis.

South Dakota:

South Dakota. We once were a leading state both in leadership and innovation. Today, we have fallen behind most of the others and favor short term gains over their long term costs.

Governor Kneip said it well in his South Dakota Scrapbook Interview for SDBP: Too many people get in a position of leadership or power and they do not take proper advantage of the human talent around them. That is why I implore you three with your positions to think carefully and critically about the gravity of your decision and the long term consequences they will have on the state and its people.

To take a phrase from Governor Gubbrud: "Make haste slowly" in regards to proceeding with the pipelines.

Use Governor Farrar's "Sound and sensible ideas regardless of the politics."

Have the temperament of two great South Dakotans, Governor Janklow and Senator Abourezk: "Like him or hate him, at least you sure know where he stands on an issue."

In regards to the gravity of pipelines specifically in South Dakota, The Dakota Access Pipeline is foolish and unwise. Keystone XL is just plain **stupid**.

I look forward to hearing back from you in regards to this issue.

Sincerely,

Dan

Daniel J. (Dan or DJ) Bilka
Rail/Transportation/Architecture/Agriculture Activist
M. Arch Candidate
South Dakota State University

