



South Dakota Grain & Feed Association

July 27, 2015

Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st floor
500 E. Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RE: The Recertification of the Keystone XL Pipeline

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for taking the time to consider public comment on the increasingly important issue of the Keystone XL pipeline. On behalf of the South Dakota Grain & Feed Association, I'm writing to urge the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission to support the recertification of Keystone XL within the state of South Dakota.

Freight rail is the primary shipper of U.S. agriculture products, moving 139.6 million tons of grain in 2014. Freight trains are also increasingly used to move crude oil, causing rail-car shortages that prevent the movement of U.S. agriculture products and lead to delayed shipments for food companies. The North Dakota onramp of the Keystone XL pipeline will safely deliver 100,000 barrels of oil per day that might otherwise be delivered by rail, making it easier for South Dakota farmers to get their crops to market.

What's more, over the past several years, South Dakota residents have overwhelmingly shown support for the project and for the economic benefits it will bring to the state. Such benefits have already been seen in other states. Accordingly, an economic impact study conducted by the Consumer Energy Alliance in Texas and Oklahoma shows that construction of the Gulf Coast Pipeline, the southern leg of Keystone XL, has had an economic impact of over \$5.7 billion, bringing with it over 42,000 jobs, many of which were hired locally.

It is important for Keystone XL route states to note that the Obama Administration has evaluated the proposed line five different times. Each review concluded that this will be the safest pipeline the United States has ever built, it will reduce gasoline and diesel prices for all Americans, it will reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions, and it will support more than 42,000 jobs. Yet, Keystone XL still hangs in regulatory limbo.

Over the past several years, the need for the pipeline, its economic impact, and the arguments in favor of its construction have only become stronger. It is critical that South Dakota maintains support for the project and signals to Washington policy makers that the state wants to pave the way for job creation, economic growth, and improvements in energy security that Keystone XL will bring.

Again, on behalf of South Dakota Grain & Feed Association, I thank you for your consideration and urge that you recertify the Keystone XL pipeline within the state of South Dakota.

Best regards,



Kathy Zander
Executive Director