

6/30/15

SD PUC

RE:

Keystone Pipeline

To whom it may concern:

I am a proponent of the Keystone Pipeline.

In 2009 I was President of the Yankton Chamber of Commerce and had a front row seat to the management and employees of Keystone Pipeline as they worked their way through southeast South Dakota. I was nothing short of impressed with the quality of over 400 employees (and their families) Yankton hosted in the summer of 2009.

While it was a pleasure to host these families it was a major economic engine for the Yankton area. Our community was feeling the full effects of the 2008 recession and we all were concerned for the wellbeing of our local retailers. Without having this project in Yankton there is no doubt we would have seen several business close their doors. Not only did this project keep our Main Street alive but we have 2 new thriving businesses here in Yankton, a new KOA campground and Springwater RV Park. Both business's decided to open and house the pipeline employees. I only wish Keystone was coming through Yankton again.

Since they have completed their project Yankton has reaped the benefits through tax revenues. In 2014 we received \$309,000 in tax revenue and are projected to receive over \$360,000 in 2015. As a whole, South Dakota benefited from over \$7.1 million dollars in tax revenue generated from the pipeline in 2013. To my knowledge their track record has been spotless to date.

South Dakota has experienced an incredible ag economy over the last 10 years and now we are on the cusp of that going the other direction with commodities at their lowest levels in 7 years. Our tax revenue will certainly suffer from this decline. Can we afford to sideline this project and give up much needed tax revenue??

In the 1950's our state was at a major crossroads as they discussed the damn system to be built on the Missouri River. Many opposed the project as it would create environmental hazards, safety issues, decrease the amount of much needed farmland as well as consuming many homesteads. With all the major concerns the project was built and the state has benefited from this project beyond our wildest dreams. Keystone does not consume homesteads or prime farmland but like every project comes with some amount of risk, however, I believe their track record speaks for itself and they have proven themselves to be a safe and strong business. Let's approve this pipeline.

Sincerely,



Lynn Peterson

Yankton, SD, 57078