

**From:** Joel Dykstra [mailto:joel.dykstra@rmbassoc.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2015 2:35 PM

**To:** Nelson, Chris

**Subject:** HP14-002 - In the Matter of the Application of Dakota Access Pipeline

To the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

I am writing in support of the captioned application that will be heard by the PUC during the course of this year.

While I recognize that underground pipelines are almost always controversial we must also recognize that they are a part of daily life. South Dakota, like every other state in the country is home to many underground pipelines carrying a vast array of products from suppliers in one part of the country to customers in another. Without the services provided by underground pipelines our modern society could scarcely function and would certainly be faced with dramatically higher costs for transportation of these critical products.

In the case of the Dakota Access Pipeline there is a very direct impact to South Dakota in the form of reduced load on our critical railroad infrastructure. Our state may be more dependent on rail transportation to access distant markets for our fundamental agriculture industry than any other state. Like our neighbors South Dakota is also dependent on oil and gas to fuel all our transportation and the rest of our economy. The success of oil exploration and production in North Dakota has dramatically reduced the cost of that fuel and increased the domestic security of our fuel supply. We should support that impact by allowing the construction of necessary pipelines through our state to carry those products to the refineries and other processors who will return gasoline, diesel fuel, fertilizer and other products that we use every day.

In addition to those big picture issues this pipeline will contribute directly to the economic vitality of the state through immediate right-of-way payments and salaries and expenditures of those employed in its construction. It will also contribute over the long term through payment of property taxes to all the jurisdictions through which it passes.

I am confident that the PUC will ensure that construction and operations of the Dakota Access Pipeline will meet the highest appropriate standards for safety and environmental protection. With those issues addressed the existence and success of the pipeline will be an asset to our state in numerous ways.

I encourage your approval of the petition as soon as you are satisfied that it meets the statutory requirements of the State of South Dakota.

Thank you for your consideration of this input.

Joel Dykstra, CEO



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