

Hayden Hoelscher

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August 30, 2015

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD
57501

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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dear Public Utilities Commission:

I am writing you with my concerns about the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline.

My name is Hayden Hoelscher; I was born in Rapid City and raised in Hill City until I was seven years old. My family then moved to Vermont. My family lived in Vermont for 12 years until I returned to the great state of South Dakota to get a Mechanical Engineering Degree at the South Dakota State University. I am currently a junior. The past two years I have worked for the Forest Service and National Park System as a wildland firefighter. My grandparents own a small family farm located near Tea. This farm has been in our family since 1889 and will be inherited to my sister and me.

It is difficult for me to understand why the great state of South Dakota would even consider such a project that would compromise small farms and diminish the value of its land. This project would ruin land for our future generations, whether it be agricultural or development. Our family farm sits in Lincoln County, one of the fastest counties in the US; this project would be taking my family's legacy and inheritance away from us. Granted, I would be willing to consider sacrificing this if the State of SD planned on rightfully returning to its citizens a fair price to compensate for this loss. The state will receive carrier fees from the pipeline, the fee will be \$4.00 per barrel, this will amount to \$832 Million dollars per year and \$25 Billion dollars over 25 years. While that sounds great, landowners may only receive a total of \$47 Million dollars in a one-time lump payment. This one-time payment does not include inevitable loss in land, home, acreage, and business property valuations.

On top of the economical nightmare the pipeline will create, the great people of South Dakota will also potentially be put in harm's way. The pipeline will be running just west of Sioux Falls, next to Wall lake, west and south of Tea, through Harrisburg and countless other small towns in the state. The pipeline will go over and under the James River, Sioux River, eight rivers in Iowa, the Missouri River and the Mississippi River. According to public Federal records, in the past 16 months, there have been 372 oil and gas pipeline leaks, spills, and other incidents, leading to 20 deaths, 117 injuries, and more than \$256 Million in damages.

If the great state of South Dakota permits the Dakota Access Pipeline, the state has failed its people, failed its coveted land, and abandoned its future generations. Please stop this pipeline from destroying our land. Let the people enjoy the many wonders of this beautiful state. Let the economy continue to thrive off of our natural resources such as pheasant and other wildlife. Lets take our focus away from the pipeline and redirect it towards plans that would actually benefit the people. Focus on creating more public land, more city parks, updating out of date infrastructure in rural parts of the state. Lets take action, stand up against this monstrosity, and make this state great again. You have the power to do that. I am confident that you will not let us down.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hayden Hoelscher', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hayden Hoelscher
Concerned South Dakota Citizen