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January 27, 2015

**RECEIVED**  
**JAN 29 2015**  
**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC**  
**UTILITIES COMMISSION**

SD Public Utilities Commission  
500 E. Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Proposed Oil Pipeline – Reroute Request

Dear PUC Commission:

I own land between 274<sup>th</sup> Street and 275<sup>th</sup> Streets in Lincoln County, SD. The current route of the oil pipeline proposed by Dakota Access divides my land. I also represent other affected landowners in the area, which make up several miles along the proposed route south of Sioux Falls.

The current proposed pipeline travels eastward along the south edge of Sioux Falls between 274<sup>th</sup> Street and 275<sup>th</sup> Street, and cuts directly through an area that has been identified and protected by the Lincoln County Comprehensive Growth Plan. A copy of the growth map is enclosed for your review, and is marked with a blue line showing the current proposed pipeline route. There is already substantial commercial and residential development that has filled in between Tea and Harrisburg south of Sioux Falls near the current proposed route. This Comprehensive Growth Plan was adopted as the law of Lincoln County by its Commission in order to protect the orderly growth of the county, which in turn protects the rights and land values of its citizens as well as necessary tax base for the public. (The full Comprehensive Growth Plan can be found on the Lincoln County website under the Planning & Zoning Department.)

South Sioux Falls is well known to be one of the fastest growing and exciting areas of development in the nation. It is frankly unbelievable that Dakota Access is proposing to leave a 50 foot strip of land that cannot be developed through an area that is expected to be full of commercial businesses and residential homes in the near future. The result will be a major

detriment to our economic growth and a huge loss of tax base. If Dakota Access has its way, it will control a 50 foot strip of land in the middle of dense development that will remain at the lowest tax base on the books when that land could otherwise have been fully developed and taxed at the highest rates. To reach their goal, this for-profit company argues that any loss of tax base will be made up by other taxes generated from this pipeline. However, the simple answer is to relocate the current proposed route further south where development growth is unlikely to occur.

Finally, I respectfully request this pipeline be rerouted further south. Since this pipeline is headed southeast through Iowa anyway, there is no reason it cannot be rerouted further south to protect these important private and public interests.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Bret C. Merkle

BCM:lsj

encl



# Future Land Use

# Map 10

