



1210 VERMEER ROAD EAST
PLANT 1, P.O. BOX 200
PELLA, IA 50219 USA

PHONE (641) 628-3141

September 4, 2015

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Attn: Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
500 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

I am writing on behalf of Vermeer Corporation and our stakeholders in support of the Dakota Access Pipeline Project (DAPL) proposed by Dakota Access, LLC. The proposed 1134-mile pipeline would provide the needed infrastructure to enable domestically produced light sweet crude oil to reach major refining markets in the United States. Vermeer strives to be a good corporate citizen, with a culture built on helping people and communities move forward. As such, Vermeer supports the many benefits the Pipeline Project is anticipated to bring to the State of Iowa and beyond, including:

- job growth and investment in the local and state economies
- domestic energy creation and consumption, reducing our reliance on foreign markets
- increased safety to the public and environment due to reduced road and rail transportation.

Vermeer Corporation is a global, family-owned and -operated company headquartered in Pella, Iowa. Founded in 1948, Vermeer manufactures underground construction, environmental, tree care, surface mining and agricultural equipment, providing localized customer service through more than 600 dealership locations worldwide. Vermeer has substantial impact on the Midwest and



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Central Iowa area, employing 2,600 people within 1.4 million square feet of manufacturing facilities in Pella, and another 100 team members in Freeman, South Dakota. Vermeer supports the local economy with an annual payroll and benefits in excess of \$162 million dollars, and significant charitable contributions to the communities where its team members live and raise their families.

Vermeer depends on positive economic conditions, and projects such as the Dakota Pipeline Project, to contribute to its team members and area communities. Vermeer manufactures the types of machines that would be used in the proposed Dakota Pipeline Project, as recently awarded to Vermeer customers Michels Corporation, Precision Pipeline LLC and Sheehan Pipe Line Construction Company. With the continuation of the Pipeline Project, Vermeer has opportunity to add and secure more jobs within manufacturing, as well as dealer and customer businesses, to build and support the machines to be used and continue giving back to the communities served.

It is our understanding that, while creating an estimated 8,000-12,000 jobs within the broader economy, the Pipeline project will create a \$1.04 billion investment in Iowa alone, and \$49.9 in Iowa sales/income tax. Add these economic advantages to the opportunity we as a country have to close the gap between the crude oil we produce and consume, resulting in decreased dependency on foreign oil, and it's a project we can't afford to overlook.

Vermeer is supportive of the Pipeline Project, with the commitment by Dakota Access, LLC that it will ease rail transportation strains to ship agriculture commodities, develop positive, long-term partnerships with landowners, preserve vital top soil and hire leading agricultural and environmental experts to minimize the impact to natural resources. Vermeer has a long history with and commitment to agriculture, and is a proponent of building successful relationships and positive results for the many stakeholders in this project.



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In conclusion, with the understanding that Dakota Access, LLC will be equally community-minded in constructing a pipeline that creates and sustains jobs and is in the best interest of landowners, the local and broader economy, domestic energy production, and the environment, Vermeer Corporation supports the Dakota Access Pipeline Project proposed by Dakota Access, LLC. We respectfully ask the South Dakota Utilities Board to grant approval for the project to proceed. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Hundt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Doug Hundt
President, Industrial Solutions