

Billon

1 the state Revenue Department. The property tax figure, looking
2 at that construction value up and down is worth the 6 some
3 million dollars.

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: We've got somebody up in the
5 corner.

6 MR. CLAYTON HALVERSON: Hi. I'm Clayton Halverson
7 from Veblen and I'm in the state legislature and I'd like to
8 help Mr. Hupke if I could.

9 The portion of the revenue from taxes that would come
10 from the pipeline falls under what's called "other revenues."
11 To give you an example, over on I-29 there's a weigh station.
12 Any trucks that go through that are over weighed are fined.
13 That fine stays in the school district. Much as like the gas
14 pipeline that goes through the county school district.
15 Virtually funds the whole county school budget. I don't think
16 the county receives any state aid at this time.

17 The gas pipeline that -- I don't know how much of the
18 taxes would be generated here, but everything that's in the
19 Britton School District would stay in Britton. It wouldn't have
20 to go out to Pierre first and then back out. That's my
21 understanding.

22 MS. SHEILA BLOMSTER: Well, I have a story to share,
23 first of all. How I got involved in this, my mother owns land
24 in Day County, and it's her only livelihood. And we got a phone
25 call one day on my cell phone, and I answered and he thought he

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1 was talking to my mother. And I said, No, this is her daughter.
2 Well, how did I get here? I says, I don't know, but somewhere
3 along the line you got my cell phone number and you thought you
4 were getting her but you were getting me. And I am her power of
5 attorney, and I take care of all of her affairs because she's in
6 an assisted-living center in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

7 He says, I'd like to meet with her. And I said, Well,
8 we can arrange that. What do you have in mind? I'm on my way
9 back up from Yankton, South Dakota. I just visited an absentee
10 landowner there to have him sign an easement and I'm on my way
11 to Aberdeen and I would like to meet with you. I said, Okay. I
12 will alert her, and I will meet with you and her. And so we
13 did. And he had an easement all prepared with facts and figures
14 and prices and wanted her to sign it right then and there,
15 without any prior warning at all.

16 So I said, Well, I said, Gee, I don't know, this is
17 kind of fast. I said, We'd like to have our attorney look at
18 it. Would you object to that? And he said, Well, no, not
19 really. He said, I suppose I could stay overnight here in
20 Aberdeen and then I could pick it up first thing tomorrow. And
21 I said, Well, that's kind of short notice. I'm not sure that
22 he'll be able to review the easement in that period of time. So
23 I'll let you know -- let me know where you're staying, and I'll
24 let you know.

25 So I immediately took it up to him about 4 o'clock in

1 the afternoon, and he reviewed it the next morning. And told me
2 not to sign it.

3 So the young man called me back on my cell phone and
4 he was staying at a hotel. And I said, Well, I said, we're not
5 going to sign it right now. I said, He wants to evaluate some
6 more and then make some revisions or amendments to it. So he
7 did that. And he was very upset with me because I didn't have
8 her sign that and get it back to him while he was there. I
9 said, Well, I'm sorry but this is the way it has to be.

10 So he -- our lawyer made revisions in the places where
11 he thought there would be better protection for her in the land
12 in the future, sent it to the Huron office. We finally got a
13 response saying that they would make no changes in the easement
14 that they had prepared. And so it just kind of stands there
15 right now, we're not doing anything.

16 So then I sent a letter to the PUC and told him about
17 our concerns about this land, about the oil leaks that are
18 possible. Because it goes down the whole west side of two
19 quarters of her land. And if there is an oil leak, my husband
20 and I do our studies on the Internet, believe me. With lots of
21 pipelines in this country, I've got file folders and pages and
22 pages of this stuff. It would destroy that land for 100 years
23 or maybe more if there was an oil leak on this land. Because it
24 would be very difficult to spot -- even a pinpoint head leak
25 would take a long time to be discovered, and in the process it

1 would ruin that land for future use.

2 And we're kind of at a standstill right now, trying to
3 figure out what's the best thing to do. We really don't want it
4 to go there, period. We're not against the pipeline, but we
5 would like to have it be where leaks and problems could be
6 discovered very quickly and attended to quickly.

7 My husband and I live in Edmunds County, and we have
8 Northern Border Pipeline going through the corner of our land.
9 In the process of doing this, it messed up the land for months.
10 And outside of the borders of the area that they had said they
11 would be working. And that's a 40-inch natural gas pipeline.
12 And we had like 40 leaks in 31 miles. My husband was working
13 alongside watching every detail of this whole process. So he
14 knows what went on.

15 In the beginning, the cooking station that's up west
16 of our place, there was lots of lights and lots of activity and
17 lots of maintenance. They would call us and say, Well, we're
18 going to run the pig through there, clean the pipes and blow it
19 off and just calling to warn you. And that was fine the first
20 few years it was there.

21 Now we never hear a thing. Never get a phone call
22 about cleaning the lines. We've never had any phone calls about
23 blowing off steam. And so we're very concerned about the
24 maintenance and upkeep of these things after 10, 20, 30, 40, 50
25 years.

1 Let's see. What else? I just -- I just want to say
2 we do not want this on her land. I did not like receiving the
3 letter that they would not make any changes in the easements to
4 better protect the landowner. And we're not going to sign it,
5 that particular easement. That's the bottom line. It's not
6 right, and we're not being taken care of properly.

7 And if there is something down the road, the way the
8 easement is printed right now, it leaves us very vulnerable with
9 not the proper attention to details. A break would be costly.
10 And there are lots of things that just need to change here, lots
11 of things that need to be different.

12 And I just want you all to know I know there's
13 probably some of you that could use the money and probably will
14 grab it. That's not the case here. And I wouldn't do that
15 anyway because of the problems that we foresee with this going
16 over all of these water --

17 The people are dependant on BDM and WEB Water. This
18 is part of their livelihood. So every precaution has to be
19 taken. And I don't feel assured that this has been done.

20 Anybody else right around here want to say anything?

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Before you get started here, maybe
22 we should speak to the Applicant because I think you raised up a
23 number of questions and good points, and maybe the Applicant has
24 some information. Thank you very much.

25 MS. ROTH: Sandra Roth, TransCanada Pipeline out of