

Member's of the P U C board , I'm writing in regard to the permit for the Trans Canada's Keystone XL pipeline. I have great concern about the public safety of our state , in allowing another crude oil pipeline to go across our state.

In Tripp County alone we have some of the best drinking water in the world. This water runs at very shallow level in the south end of Tripp County. On my land , which the line will be going across , I can look down my well and it is only 6 to 7 feet to water. My new well is going to be 200 feet or less from the pipeline. The old well will be even closer. Trans Canada looked at moving it north to miss the City of Colome's water well aquifer, which also pulls from under my land, according to a map shown to me by Trans Canada's land agent's , engineer's and surveyor's. This put the line very close to my open dug out. I told them this was not acceptable.

I know of 5 quarter's of land in my area that have this very shallow depth to water, and as the pipeline runs southeast from my property, I know there is more. Right now the water table is so high that the water is running on the surface of the land, this can be seen from the county road, and is an estimated 100 yards or less from the survey area where the line will be installed.

Another issue that is of as great of a concern is land owner rights. This issue has been overlooked in the Trans Canada oil pipeline approval process. It cannot be said that we the taxpayers of the state and country are being respected when the Big Money oil people are allowed to come in and tell us what our land is worth, take it at their determined price, and have no special protections for the tax payers and land owners.

We the taxpayers and land owners demand to be backed up by our government agencies and not to be sold out to big money companies. I received a end of the year report from the South Dakota Beef Industry Council the other day, the report showed how much money the beef check off program produced. In 2009 the beef check off produced \$3,652,655.00 in South Dakota alone. This is a fee accessed to the cattle producers industry by our government. It's funny how it take's so little effort to get a fee applied to a way of life that has always had a up hill battle to make a profit , but yet all we can think to do for a dollar rich oil industry is to give them a free pass on behalf of our tax paying land owners.

I feel that South Dakota needs to set an example for the nation , in how to address these matters and quit going with the flow. This going with the flow is why our country is in the shape that it is. To put it bluntly , we have been getting raped by the oil companies for some time now.

Do we need the oil? Maybe. Would it make more sense to refine it closer to the source and then distribute it ? I think this is a big Yes. These are common sense answer's to issues that could cost our state and country a non replaceable resource. If you think putting your water resource across your state at high risk is worth all of this tax money, just wait until you have to start paying to have clean water piped in , or reprocessing water that has already gone through your sewer systems. Don't even want to go there , but its already happening in other places.

In closing I would like to ask you to not let the greed of the almighty dollar out weigh a good, safe ,common sense approach to this oil pipeline. We need to look ahead , is the risk worth the benefit. Take care of the people of South Dakota, we are your employer.

Remember what the Bible tells us “ the poor man will get to go to heaven before the rich man”. Also , “ Do not give false testimony .”

Thank you
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