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**From:** South Dakota Public Utilities Commission[SMTP:PUCDOCKETFILINGS@STATE.SD.US]  
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Comments: October 15, 2014 South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Patricia Van Gerpen - Executive Director 500 East Capitol Avenue Pierre, SD 57501-5070 Dear Ms. Van Gerpen and Commissioners Hanson, Nelson and Fiegen: On behalf of the more than 44,000 members of the Izaak Walton League of America, I am writing to convey our concerns about the Keystone XL pipeline. Founded in 1922, the Izaak Walton League is one of the nation's oldest and most respected conservation organizations. With a powerful grassroots network of nearly 250 local chapters nationwide, the League takes a common-sense approach toward protecting our country's natural heritage and improving outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans. We appreciate the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's steps to consider the environmental implications of the Keystone XL pipeline in the face of political pressure to approve the pipeline regardless of environmental consequences. We encourage the Commission to ensure that all potential environmental impacts from construction and operation of the Keystone XL pipeline are thoroughly evaluated and addressed. Presently, the League stands with other Americans and organizations against construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. The League opposes construction of the Keystone XL pipeline and any other tar sands pipelines in the United States until the following conditions are met: a) Any proposed pipeline shall undergo thorough review by all relevant local, state and federal regulatory bodies with authority over the pipeline and its design and operation to ensure that public and environmental health is protected. b) Governmental permitting and regulatory agencies shall require the incorporation of fail-safe provisions, such as double wall pipe and leak detection monitors, in new pipeline construction and operation and in repairs of existing pipelines in order to protect surface water and groundwater, human health, soils and wildlife. c) Penalties, financial assurance, and/or reparations should be established as part of the construction and operation permitting process in the event of any noncompliance and to mitigate any damages to the public and environmental health. The petroleum products transported by this pipeline would have an extremely detrimental impact on surface and groundwater, soils, fish and wildlife, and human health should there be a spill, leak or other uncontrolled release. Therefore, the League insists on best in

class safety requirements, including increased wall thickness of the pipe and redundant leak detection monitoring. Furthermore, to ensure adequate financial resources to address damages to public and environmental health if they occur, clear penalties and fees should be established in the permitting process to address such damages. In order to improve energy security and conserve vital natural resources, the League believes our nation must prioritize investments in energy efficiency, renewable fuels, and improved transmission infrastructure. The evolution across the spectrum of energy resources happening in America today raises questions about this project's necessity and safety. This proposed Keystone XL pipeline would facilitate development and transportation of oil from one of the world's most environmentally harmful sources, the tar sands of Alberta. The pipeline would hinder cleaner, home-grown clean energy advancements in our country delaying our inevitable transition to renewable energy sources while increasing the risk to our valuable natural resources, our health, and our long-term economic well-being. Thank you for carefully considering the environmental impacts of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline and our comments. Sincerely, Mike Leahy  
Conservation Director Izaak Walton League of America