



July 6, 2015

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

Sent Via Email to: puc@state.sd.us

Docket Number: HP14-001

Subject: TransCanada Reapplication for Keystone XL Pipeline construction permit

PUC Commissioners,

On behalf of the Rapid City Economic Development Partnership, please accept this letter of support for the reissuance of a construction permit to TransCanada to build the South Dakota portion of the Keystone XL pipeline. Unfortunately, the previous permit expired due to unnecessary project delays in the federal approval process.

Granting a new permit means that once the Keystone XL Pipeline project is federally approved, construction on 316 miles of pipeline in South Dakota can begin, bringing hundreds of millions of dollars in economic growth and thousands of jobs to our state.

We strongly add our voice to the many other entities and stakeholders who support the Keystone XL Pipeline for the following reasons:

Jobs

Construction of Keystone XL will create thousands of good, high-paying jobs for American men and women. The U.S. Department of State estimates that construction alone will bring between 3000-4000 direct and indirect jobs to South Dakota, representing over \$100 million in payroll. From construction jobs for welders, pipefitters and laborers to spin-off jobs at local hotels, restaurants and gas stations; thousands of South Dakotans stand to benefit from Keystone XL.

Property Taxes

Once Keystone XL is operational, South Dakota communities will collect over \$20 million in annual property and other taxes helping to reduce the tax burden on South Dakotan families. According to the U.S. State Department's Final Supplemental Impact Statement (FSEIS), seven out of nine counties in South Dakota will see their property tax base increase by more than 10 per cent. In some counties, those increases would be close to 100 percent. These taxes will help address local infrastructure needs like roads, bridges, schools and other facilities that improve the standard of living for South Dakotans.

Positive History in Our State

TransCanada has a positive history in the State of South Dakota. The first Keystone Pipeline, built in 2008, passed through twelve of South Dakota's counties and brought considerable economic benefits to the region. It has brought with it some 9,000 direct jobs for American men and women – many of those in South Dakota and other parts of the Midwest. Since the Keystone Pipeline was constructed it has paid out millions of dollars in property taxes. That is money that state and local governments can invest directly in things like roads, hospitals and schools to make the quality of life for South Dakotans so much better. Keystone XL will have the same positive impact.

Keystone XL is good for South Dakota and America

Not only will Keystone XL be the safest pipeline ever constructed on American soil due to 59 additional safety conditions put in place by the federal pipeline regulator, but it will have minimal impact on the environment, reduce reliance on crude oil transport by rail and bolster U.S. energy security as a whole reducing U.S. reliance on oil from less stable countries in the Middle East and Venezuela.

The vast majority of Americans and South Dakotans support this project and look forward to the day when Keystone XL is built so they can fuel their lives with a safe, secure source of energy that is in the national interest.

Respectfully submitted,



Benjamin L. Snow
President