January 6, 2015

Ms. Kristie Fiegen PUC   Subject – XL Pipeline
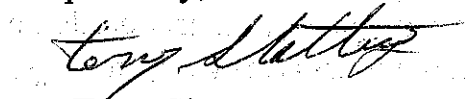500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

I feel we need a pipeline, but will never need Tar Sands Oil! The key word in that sentence is TAR. A more fitting name would be Tar Sands GUNK!

This oil is not pumped from wells, but mined like coal from mostly open pit mines. At best it has the consistency of peanut butter, at worst like soft coal. It has to be diluted with hazardous chemicals in order to make it flow anywhere. In a pipeline it must be moved at warmer temperatures and higher pressure than other oil. If it's exposed to air, the chemicals evaporate and the mess left behind is very hard to clean up, and sometimes impossible. It's not water soluble and does not float on water like real oil. It sinks to the bottom and has been known to foul lakes and streams for years, if not centuries.

Why our three representative in Washington are pushing this project is beyond my comprehension. I'm sure it would create jobs, but never in the numbers they're using, unless there is a serious break in the line. That would create a lot of jobs for a long, lond time. Two of them are on record as saying the pipeline would free rail roads to help get our crops to market. Right now, there are about 25 unit trains hauling Bakken oil through Jamestown and Fargo on the way to refineries in the east. Some as far as Delaware, and many others hauling crude 400 miles to Douglas Wyoming. These trains are a mile long, and have at least three engines pulling each train. A pipeline from Dickinson to the refineries in Texas and Louisiana would aid our farmers much more, and much faster.

With the price of oil as it is now, it's not profitable to even harvest tar sand oil and the pipeline may be a mute point. If you cannot vote no on this project, please vote to delay any decision for now. Lets see what happens with the price of oil, and what President Obama and Nebraska do.

Respectfully;

Mr. Terry Slattery