

Good afternoon, I am John Meyer from Winner, SD. I would like to thank the committee for allowing me to speak today.

I have a passion for growing business and economic development in SD. As a small business owner of 34 years, former President of the SD Retailers Association, and have served or am currently serving on many boards, committees, and elected positions.

When I first heard of the TransCanada-Keystone Project I could see the potential economic development for the area. So many times we are bypassed due to no interstate, not enough power, no natural gas, employee base, and so on.

The promising picture is the on-going property tax, gross receipts tax, and generation tax that will provide 1-3 million dollars a year to our city, county, and schools. Approximately 10 plus million to SD in property tax every year. This is the equivalent to the property tax collected in Tripp Co.

The jobs, business, and sales tax during construction could be as much as 30% increase with many permanent jobs created.

The 2 pump stations in Tripp County will use more electricity than the rural electric. This will require larger transmission lines. Let's expand this picture to add wind farms now that we have the transmission lines, thus increasing property tax base and yet another way to create permanent jobs.

Born and raised in SD, and having a business here for the past 34 years I fully respect and understand our property owner's rights. Signed easements, leases, and rentals are a must. I never saw this as a threat or condemnation of property, but actually as an alternative tax relief to property owners.

Every day you see truck after truck hauling pumps, stations, towers, pipe, and tanks to North Dakota oil fields, and you have to ask yourself: Who manufactured this and how many people, trucks, diesel fuel, and tires were required to build the TransCanada pipeline? How many spin off companies were created during and after construction? Always "how many jobs"?

We recently increased fees (taxes) up to 33% to maintain our failing highways, bridges, etc. The most amazing thing of all of this is a neighboring country (Canada) is investing 7 billion dollars in our country providing an infrastructure that we so often fail to do. An infrastructure that will carry our own domestic oil, pay on going property taxes, create jobs, and open the doors to future companies and more employment opportunities.

Alternative energy is great if it works and cost effective. Our trucks, tractors, combines, etc. that produce our food and carry our products to market use fuel.

Our dependence on a troubled Middle East oil leaves us vulnerable and does nothing for our development of jobs in America. History has shown us that food and fuel can shut down a country, shut down a controversy or win a war, aka Trade Embargo.

New refineries cost more than 30 billion dollars and are overwhelmed with EPA regulations. There are many of those who don't want it in their back yard but the irony is that every one of us every day use energy.

Now more than ever we need to support development in our country whether it be agriculture, energy exploration, manufacturing, or retail. With the ever increasing world's population counting on us to feed them we will need a reliable source of fuel.

The pipeline route carries oil from Canada to Texas to a refinery for China, but also intersects the Bakken Formation to carry oil for our own domestic use.

In summary I feel the TransCanada pipeline is the artery to America's energy independence, homeland security, and economic development.

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