



A G R O W I N G I N F L U E N C E

South Dakota Corn Growers Association  
4712 S. Technopolis Drive  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

February 4, 2015

Chris Nelson, Chairman  
Public Utilities Commission  
500 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Docket: HP 14-002

Dear Chairman Nelson,

I am writing you and your fellow commissioners today to voice the support of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association towards the approval of a pipeline permit for the Dakota Access crude oil pipeline project.

While our organization strongly supports the production, use and development of petroleum alternatives such as biofuels and wind energy, we understand the important role that oil plays in our country and believe this project will make America more energy secure and independent.

The proposed Dakota Access pipeline makes a great deal of economic sense as it will undoubtedly relieve the railcar backlog and lessen the cost of rail shipments, ensuring that farmers, ethanol plants and grain handlers have timely and affordable rail access. These stakeholders depend mightily on fair and adequate rail service to ensure that millions of bushels of grain can be moved to market in a timely manner without spoil.

When it comes to the environment, the transportation of oil is never completely safe, but statistics show that modern pipelines are a much safer method to transport volatile crude oil than trucks and trains.

With that said, we are concerned about the many miles of farmland, drainage systems and water bodies that would be affected by this project and hope that your commission and Dakota Access, LLC will provide a fair and transparent process for those affected.

I appreciate the opportunity to share our organization's support for this project and trust that the commission will make a sound decision in doing what is best for the people of South Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Alverson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith Alverson  
President  
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