

From: Ernest [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 24, 2015 12:36 PM
To: Hanson, Gary (PUC)
Subject: Bakken pipeline Energy Transfer

Dear Sir: I recently attended the meeting in Sioux Falls. I didn't make any comments because the pipeline will not pass through our property. I realize that everyone has the right to express their opinion. I have known the two ladies that spoke and consider them to be friends and good honest citizens. I was also very disappointed to hear their remarks. My memories date back before we had electricity on our farm. The road past our farm consisted of two tracks through the grass. My father and many others like him donated their time to set telephone poles. There have been many wonderful changes only because the farmers and people of the community were gracious enough to allow many of these improvements without protests and lawyers fees. Yes, I know that we now live in a different world. In this age of internet (good or bad) I am able to obtain public information about the amount of subsidies that each farmer has received in the past. The amount was considerable more than individuals receive in welfare. Every year the township boards have (equalization meetings) so that individuals are able to apply for the lowering of the value of their property. Yes, us humans have become greedy. When they are expected to sign an easement the value increases. Our farm received electricity a short time before WWII. The requirement was that there must be 3 users in a distance of the line. My father allowed a line to be built through our field so that two of his neighbors could also benefit. We were the envy of the neighborhood. We are very fortunate that non-government land has allowed the drilling of oil in the Bakken area. The American people are now enjoying lower gas prices. (No thanks to the present administration) There are always "ifs" connected with any project. Oil spills happen because of rail and truck accidents. I'm certain that the safest way to transfer such a large volume of oil, a pipeline is the best option. As commissioners you are elected by the majority of the people and must base your decisions (not on selfish attitude of a few individuals).

I would prefer that you didn't publish my name.

Yours truly, Ernest Kroeger

[REDACTED]
(retired farmer)