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From: Michelle Matthies [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 8:51:40 PM  
To: PUC  
Subject: Stop Dakota Access HP14-002

Dear Public Service Commissioners,

Docket Number: HP14-002

I strongly oppose the proposed Dakota Access crude oil pipeline.

When I think of South Dakota, I think of grass fed cows, organic farms, and wonderful wide open prairies. However, when I think of North Dakota, I think of oil fields and desolate farm land due to the unfortunate accidents that have happened in their state.

The pipelines carrying crude oil are going to ruin this image of South Dakota for so many South Dakotans and others when (not if) an oil leak occurs. The outcome will be catastrophic to our environment and deadly for our local emergency crews that will have to deal with the cleanup.

Crude oil is so dangerous because it typically contains more than 1,000 chemicals and it clings to every living thing and suffocates it. A large majority of these chemicals are hazardous to humans, animals, and especially our environment. Since Bakken crude oil is known to be the most explosive, the answer and solution is extremely obvious.

We in South Dakota are smarter and better than this. We do not bend because someone throws a couple of dollars our way. We have proven in the past that we are willing to stand our ground for what is right. Preserving God's green earth and keeping it as green as possible is the right thing to do especially in South Dakota where all of our livelihoods depend so significantly on the earth and protecting it. Money should not even enter into the equation because it is so insignificant compared to the problems this pipeline will cause. I urge you to take a stand and trust in the hope of a better tomorrow.

For three reasons I urge you and everyone in a government position to think:

1. About our environment
2. The future generations and the burden we are putting on them
3. Keeping South Dakota's reputation protected.

I am only a mile away from the proposed pipeline and I rely on the produce from my own garden every year for my family. Also, I am very concerned for my good neighbors who still rely on well water for their water source. The pipeline is so close to them that if there is a leak, the damage would be devastating and destroy their water source.

I beg, plead, and urge you to reconsider any more pipelines coming into our state. Please give our future generation a chance to come up with cleaner solutions to our current problems we are facing in America. Once we say yes to a pipeline, the battle is lost forever and we will not be able to go back. Please take a stand for what is right and do NOT allow Dakota Access or any other crude oil pipeline to come into our state!

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