

**From:** Representative Willadsen, Mark  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 18, 2014 12:55 PM  
**To:** Fiegen, Kristie  
**Cc:** meierhenrylaw.com, mark; [mwilladsen@farmersagent.com](mailto:mwilladsen@farmersagent.com)  
**Subject:** FW: Dakota Access Pipeline

Commissioner Kristie Fiegen  
Public Utilities Commission

Kristie,

Attached is a letter I received from Mark Meierhenry, attorney for some local landowners who have been approached by representatives from the Dakota Access Pipeline for the purpose of obtaining easements across their land for an oil pipeline. Mr. Meierhenry reports that this activity is going on, even though no filings have been made with the PUC as "No present law requires them to do so."

This raises several questions in my mind, assuming that Attorney Meierhenry is correct. Is this a common practice for oil pipeline speculators to obtain easements before filing with the PUC? Does the PUC have regulations about what activities a speculator can do before making a filing? Have there been other problems with other speculators similar to this? If so, is this something the PUC can address with rules, or is it time for legislation?

I believe the bigger problem in this case is the location of the proposed pipeline crossing Interstate 29 approximately at the 85th St proposed interchange. This interchange is especially needed for travel, commerce, and overall safety of nearby residents. The thought that a proposed pipeline could jeopardize the construction of the interchange at 85th street is reason enough to deny the pipeline access. To jeopardize the potential commercial growth of this area is even more reason for denial!

This topic of discussion also came up yesterday morning at a meeting of Lincoln & Minnehaha County Commissioners for Legislators. We were told that the pipeline had simply established the pipeline route by the most direct and economically feasible means. I believe the PUC needs to be made aware of this situation, and to take steps as necessary to alter the route before too much work and money have been spent to change it.

I understand that pipelines are necessary and vital to our economy. I also understand that a "not in my backyard" mentality means that pipelines never get built. In this case, I believe that a sensible compromise can be worked out, but

that we need to find that compromise quickly. The PUC needs to be able to address these issues early in the process. If that can be done by rule, please start the process. If it needs to be done legislatively, I am happy to participate!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I am looking forward to visiting with you soon!

Representative Mark Willadsen  
District 11