

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 12:10 AM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Renewable Fuel Standard set by EPA

To the South Dakota PUC
Comments for Docket HP22-001 and Docket HP22-002

I wish to bring to the attention of the PUC and others that the EPA **boosts** biofuel renewable standards and the production totals. However the totals for ethanol **held steady** according to an article from the Associated Press and published in June 23, 2023 by the Argus Leader - Watertown Public Opinion.com

EPA Administrator Michael Regan said the final rule would reduce reliance on foreign oil by up to 140,000 barrels per day and support continued growth of biofuels that produced fewer greenhouse gas emissions than traditional gasoline or diesel fuels. Ethanol and other renewable fuels play a critical role in diversifying our country's energy mix and combatting climate change. All the while providing good paying jobs and economic benefits to our communities.

The EPA has set biofuel blending volumes at 20.94 billion gallons in 2023, 21.54 billion gallons in 2024 and 22.33 billion gallons in 2025, but only included 15 billion gallons of corn based ethanol in all three years. Why so much at 10% mix? It is enough to make 20% mix.

Emily Skor, CEO of Growth Energy contends this slows progress toward the current administration climate goals set by Congress. Other unhappy comments from Michael McAdams, president of Advanced Biofuels Association called the EPA plan a missed opportunity to invest and expand the adoption of low-carbon advanced biofuels like switchgrass, cellulosic ethanol or landfill waste.

Then Dan Lashof U.S. Director of World Resources Institute says our future will not be propelled by CORN- though you might think otherwise based on the Renewable Fuel Standards set by the EPA. Many have thought that biofuels are the climate solution, but today we know that converting crops to biofuel is a disaster for our planet. It increases emissions, raises food prices and is a terrible use of prime FARMLAND. (He must not be working for Summit or Navigator)

This past year 40% of corn produced in the US, 60% in South Dakota, was used to make ethanol, a figure Lashof called incredible wasteful. He said the government should be supporting farmers to adopt climate smart agriculture practices that produce food, store carbon and conserve biodiversity- not incentivize them to use their land to produce fuels that make the climate crisis worse.

Brett Hartl, government affairs director at the Center for Biological Diversity called the

renewable fuel program "a colossal boondoggle" in which " millions of acres of farmland are being pointlessly sacrificed just to grow corn to fuel gas-guzzling SUV's. (I say to make the rich-- richer) and building pipelines to capture carbon dioxide is shortsighted and a financial disaster for our country.

Hopefully the PUC can see there should not be a rush to grant a permit to build a CO2 pipeline in SD when very smart people who work in these areas are saying and writing what has been reported by the associated press and others. Taking a fourth or fifth generation farmers' private farmland is the worst thing in the world and granting a permit cannot be reversed. It will be the prime cause of eminent domain no matter what the PUC says. This will mean families will be affected mentally, their soil harmed forever to make fuel rather than grow food for a starving world. Please, listen what those affected farmers are saying about taking their land forever. Let's study this project and see what is a better use of taxpayers' money with many different solutions on the horizon. Knowing the experts are not in agreement, knowing the hazards of compressed CO2, destroying many family dreams and issuing a permit at this time would be very wrong. Compressed carbon dioxide is not a utility for which the PUC was initially conceived for citizens' protection. This is a fact. How did we get to this point?

Thank you,

Dennis M. Jones

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