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From: **Cole Heisey, Minnehaha County Commissioner** [REDACTED]

Date: Sat, Feb 1, 2025, 7:29 PM

Subject: Minnehaha Seeks Intervenor Status - C02 Pipeline!

To: Kristie Fiegen



Dear Kristie Fiegen,

January is a busy month for the Commission as we set the course for the year ahead. Between attending events, participating in meetings, and conducting research, I've had a lot on my plate—but I've truly enjoyed the work and the people I've met along the way. While it will take some time to fully acclimate, it's only a matter of time.

So far, most of my votes and responsibilities have involved routine business, but I have also tackled some pressing issues early in my tenure.

Right out of the gate, in the spirit of civic duty and representing both my constituents and the broader county, I strongly advocated for Minnehaha County to file for intervenor/party status with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on the pending Summit Docket (HP24-001).

Initially, the Board did not bring the matter to a public vote. However, the following week, it reconsidered and unanimously voted to apply at last week's meeting (1-28-25). With this decision, Minnehaha County joins at least 10 other

counties along the pipeline route. Affected individuals, cities, townships, fire departments, and others have also applied. I see this as a positive and pro-active step toward protecting the lives and property of our citizens.

Here's a full list of all current party status applications.

### More Information

On a different note, one issue I was unable to persuade the Board to change is Section 5.6, Citizen Participation, item (4) of the Rules of Procedure. I proposed allowing a single Commissioner to place an item on the agenda, rather than requiring two Commissioners as the current rule dictates. In contrast, Lincoln County has no such restriction.

In my view, this rule can limit the ability to bring important matters to public attention and a formal vote. My core argument was that, as elected officials, Commissioners should have the inherent right to independently add items to the agenda at any time and for any reason.

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As always, I will continue to prioritize accessibility and good governance. Much of the Commission's work centers on the core responsibilities of county government—funding essential services, supporting law enforcement and public safety, maintaining infrastructure, and ensuring the efficient, professional delivery of public services.

While much of what we do is routine, there is always room for discussion, improvement, and innovation. My colleagues and I have collaborated well on these priorities, and I have been consistently impressed by the dedication and expertise of our county staff, including the various partners we work with.

As an informed member of the public, I encourage you to continue sharing your views and any relevant information so I can best represent your interests. I will do my best to keep you updated on major issues of public interest as they arise.