

January 20, 2025

PUC
500 East Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

RECEIVED

JAN 23 2025
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

RE: HP24-001

Honorable PUC Commissioners:

Hello. My name is Lori Elie. 30+ years actively involved in farming.

I want to talk about progress. Progress takes change. Progress is an opportunity to grow. Progress is not without risk. When ethanol first became a buzz word, do you remember what the opposition taunted. The fear based "Food vs Fuel" tactic. The articles that ethanol production diverts corn that would otherwise be used to feed the hungry. Some chanted, "How can you take food away from people's mouths and make it into fuel?!" Now in hindsight we can all see that this was untrue. It was a tactic used by politicians and lobbyists to instill fear. We pushed forward. We progressed. We pulled together and in 2001 GLE was formed and now has over 4,000 members. GL has had its struggles. They overcame them and the farmers and residents of SD have enjoyed the many benefits of having this industry in the state of SD.

SD - #1 industry = Agriculture. The foundation of the South Dakota economy.

SD - #1 in energy.

SD – 4th largest producer of ethanol

SD – has 16 ethanol plants producing 34 millions gallons of ethanol annually. The US is the largest producer of ethanol. We generate 54 billion dollars in GDP. And in 2023 ethanol provided over 400,000 jobs.

SD - Ethanol is 30% of the SD economy.

SD ethanol generates an entire supply chain of employment opportunities:

Farming - Harvesting feed stocks – Distributing & Processing. We heavily rely on our ethanol plants.

SD ethanol is diversification and developing new markets. We need our ethanol plants to continue to be profitable by exploring new markets. We need our farmers to reap the benefits of these new markets. We need to remain competitive in this rapidly growing industry of renewable energy.

The pipeline is essential to the continued success of SD's ethanol plants. SD needs to participate in progressing to the next generation of biofuel technology. If we choose to ignore this opportunity we will regret our decision. South Dakota will pay a price, the state will be left behind and our ethanol plants will become stagnant. We need progress not failure.

Please issue the permit for the Summit pipeline. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lori Elie

[REDACTED]
Watertown, SD 57201
[REDACTED]