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# Letter of Support for South Dakota's Ethanol & Agriculture Industry

03 2025

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

RE: Docket HP24-001 Application for a Permit to Construct a Carbon Dioxide Transmission Pipeline

To the Honorable South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioners.

Unfortunately, those opposing the pipelines are ignoring the fact that killing this project will cost our state billions of dollars in ag production, plant and pipeline construction, low carbon ethanol and sustainable aviation fuel production, along with thousands of jobs and the opportunity to position ourselves at the leading edge of biofuel and energy production.

Agriculture is the backbone of our state's economy. According to Protect South Dakota's Ag Future, South Dakota farmers produce nearly 800 million bushels of corn annually, contributing \$4.3 billion to our state's economy. Over 60% of the corn grown in our state is used in the production of ethanol.

A global movement towards reducing carbon emissions presents opportunities and challenges to our ethanol industry. Ethanol-based sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) can be used by airlines in their effort to become more carbon neutral. With limited alternatives to power today's modern aircraft, SAF is expected to make up most emissions reductions for the aviation industry. South Dakota is expected to be a major source for SAF upon completion.

At the same time, more markets are passing laws requiring low carbon for fuels purchased in their state. This means our state's ethanol producers cannot sell to the largest markets in America without carbon capture. This makes carbon sequestration projects vital to the future of our ethanol industry and to South Dakota agriculture.

Over the past couple of years, South Dakota's carbon pipeline projects have been met with opposition. This opposition has put these projects - and others similar - in jeopardy of shutting down or being relocated out of state.

More than half of our state's corn crop, grown for ethanol production, could lose its market for sale. This loss will devastate our ag economy, our rural communities and South Dakota's future economic development.

The choice is ours. I ask that you please support the carbon pipeline as we need this for all of South Dakota. Losing the carbon pipeline will damage our ag economy, cost our state billions, and hurt every South Dakotan. Let's not make a huge mistake. We need your support!

Sincerely,

Signature:

*Michael E. McCann*

Printed Name:

Michael E. McCann

Address:

[Redacted] Brookings, SD 57006

Phone Number:

[Redacted]

Email Address:

[Redacted]

Please note attachment.

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FEB 03 2025

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

To the honorable PUC Board

My name is Michael E. McCann, I am 81 years old and have been a resident of Brookings, SD all of my life.

Before Ethanol corn prices were in a narrow range, about \$1.20 to \$1.50 for many years. There was a government program which restricted production of corn and farmers were allotted how much they could grow. After corn producers of ethanol, demand for corn increased significantly and prices of corn went up much higher. Every corn producer and the whole state economy benefited from this. Corn is the main crop that farmers produce and South Dakota grows a large amount of corn.

Now technology has developed EVs (Electric Vehicles) which is impacting demand for corn, and will continue to create demand for corn. One way to counter this is to develop Ethanol for aviation fuel. Airplanes are not likely to be powered by batteries for some time. Therefore, it is in the strong interest of farmers & our economy to develop ethanol for aviation fuel, which requires pipe line for sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub>.

The pipe line is essential to our farmers & state economy, and the PUC should approve it.

Respectfully,

Michael E. McCann

PS: If you don't approve it, other states will and we will lose out.

Michael McCann  
[REDACTED]  
Brookings, SD 57006

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FIRST-CLASS  US PS  


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Pierre, SD 57501

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