Chris Nelson, Chairman
Kristie Fiegen, Vice Chairperson
Gary Hanson, Commissioner

South Dakota
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070
www.puc.sd.gov

(605) 773-3201
Consumer Hotline
1-800-332-1782
Email
puc@state.sd.us

October 25, 2026

The Honorable Governor Larry Rhoden
State Capitol
500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Governor Rhoden:

SDCL 49-1-9 prohibits a Public Utilities Commissioner from participating "in any hearing or proceeding in which he has any conflict of interest."

On October 23, 2026, Basin Electric filed a Request for Approval of Material Deviation to a condition of the siting permit for the PrairieWinds SD1 wind farm. This filing was made in docket EL09-028 (https://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2009/el09-028.aspx).

My wife and I own property which is part of the PrairieWinds SD1 wind farm which creates a conflict of interest for any "hearing or proceeding" involving EL09-028. Therefore, I am notifying you that pursuant to SDCL 49-1-9 I will not be participating in the proceeding related to this filing and ask that you exercise your authority under this statute to appoint a replacement commissioner for any Commission proceeding related to this filing.

Notification of a replacement commissioner may be directed to Executive Director Leah Mohr in the Public Utilities Commission office.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Nelson

Cc: Leah Mohr
PUC Docket Filings