

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 05 June 2018 14:08:14 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** PUC  
**Subject:** RE: [EXT] EL17-055

Commissioners,

I have followed the Crocker Wind project with great interest. I listened to the recent hearing and now it is imperative for me to reiterate the importance of our South Dakota wildlife, their habitats, and our unique environment.

South Dakota has spent much time and resources saving and restoring habitats. The northeastern corner of our state is invaluable for wildlife, not only for hunting and tourism, but for reproduction and protection of the varied species. Our native grasslands will only be native once. Once destroyed, it can never be the same. Yes, pheasants may nest in wheat, but who is going to go plant wheat where those grasslands are destroyed? No one. Even if someone planted bits of wheat here and there for a season, the pheasants have suffered tremendously and deserve to retain what native habitat we have left.

Fragmented habitat will be DEVASTATING for all of the wildlife, not just pheasants. Our migration corridor is so important, too. We just can not give up this environment for the promise of a bit of money for energy that is going somewhere else. There is no local benefit to the vast majority of South Dakotans, only a very few people will benefit, but the rest of us will have our South Dakota stripped away.

The percentage of tillable land Geronimo expects to use in this project is ridiculous. There are other wide open areas, there are other wide open states, just because it is easier and more cost effective for them, doesn't it make it right for our state. We have to fight for what we have and not be enticed by people who want to profit from a tax credit. Those people are not going to be here dealing with our environmental losses; they will move on to the next community carcass to feed. Let them go. We do not need them. We do not want them. We want to maintain the integrity of our valuable wildlife and environment.

Please read the responses to the gubernatorial conservation questionnaire by the South Dakota Farmers Union at [www.sdfu.org/blog/conserving-south-dakota-governors-candidate-questionnaire](http://www.sdfu.org/blog/conserving-south-dakota-governors-candidate-questionnaire). You can see how important hunting and fishing is to our economy... \$950 million per year. Grassland converted to wheat contributes to greenhouse gases. Wetlands are already being drained and destroyed. And item you must not ignore, "**Conservationists are very concerned about grassland and wetland loss in South Dakota. An SDSU study estimated a loss of 1.8 million acres of grassland between 2006 and 2012.**" It must stop. We must preserve what we have. Crocker Wind would only destroy, not enhance this incredibly precious, delicate area.

Stop it. Please deny this permit!

Sincerely,

Amber Christenson