

March 28, 2019

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
Via Email: puc@state.sd.us

RE: "Regarding PUC Docket EL 18-053 – Deuel Harvest North Wind Farm"

Honorable Commissioners:

My name is Craig Evenson, I am an attorney at Gunderson Law Firm in Clear Lake SD. I also am on the board of Deuel Area Development and am an officer in the SD Army National Guard. I make this disclosure to ensure it is clear that I am only contacting you in my personal capacity. My comments are not representing Gunderson Law Firm, Deuel Area Development or the SD National Guard. These are solely my personal feelings and beliefs.

I believe it is important for our rural communities to have opportunities to better the local economy. There are a number of ways in which rural communities can enhance their local economy through business development. Deuel Harvest North Wind Farm is one of those opportunities. Currently, Invenergy is planning to build a wind facility in Deuel County. The facilities mean a number of benefits for the municipalities, townships, schools, county and the state. Municipalities in Deuel County stand to see increased revenue through sales, in particular during the construction phase of the development. townships, schools and the county stand to benefit through increases in tax revenues. Of course the state stands to see the same benefits through tax.

Those are all important benefits to the governmental entities. In addition, there will be benefits to the local economy, which spans a wider area. The benefits are far greater than just the additional jobs. There will be a multiplier effect for the county based on the additional dollars being spent in the community. This effect can be from increased purchases from farmers benefitting from a turbine to an increase in revenues from food sales at local establishments. This must be taken into consideration when discussing any potential economic benefits. Invenergy was good enough to have an economic impact study commissioned, the results of which show a great impact. As Commissioners, you need to review that study and use it as a centerpiece in your deliberations. Please keep these benefits in mind when considering this project.

I should also explain why I believe it is so important to build the local economy of Deuel County. I grew up here and came back to set down roots and build a law practice. Because of the efforts of those before me, I have been given the opportunity to come to practice in an area which I believe gives my family and I unique opportunities and experiences from those we would find in larger communities.

Because of my upbringing and understanding of the efforts of those who worked on the development of Deuel County ahead of me, I know that I must continue to work hard on the development of the community in order to ensure that it is a viable place for my children to come to in the future. If there is not a continued focus on the local economy and the future, my children may have no opportunities here in the future. More than anything, I am motivated to ensure a viable community in which my children may come back to and put down roots as I have.

Also, as an adult, active in mentorship and other activities with Deuel School, I want all of the students to have an opportunity to come back to their hometown. I want to have a better outlook than my generation had on moving back to their hometown. I recall that the vast majority of my high school class wanted to move away from the county, relating a lack of opportunity. I don't want to see that again. Lack of development could cause that mass migration again.

I may only have been back in Clear Lake for 6 years, however, I plan to spend the rest of my life working to ensure that Deuel County will provide opportunities to future generations as my father as his peers have done for so many years. The Public Utilities Commission ought to get this permitting completed for the Deuel Harvest Wind Farm.



Craig D. Evenson

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CDE/bls