

# South Dakota Aviation Association

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July 20, 2020

Dear PUC,

With the current construction of wind farms and the proposal of more, the South Dakota Aviation Association would like to send you this reminder of our concerns.

As Aerial Applicators, our industry depends on air space. Our number one concern for our membership, and any pilot, is safety. Wind turbines, even when properly lit, are an obvious safety risk to everyone in our industry, but even greater are the MET towers and transmission lines that come along with these wind farms. MET towers sneak in under the lighting rules and are extremely hard to see. Transmission lines needed to take the power away are very prominent, earth tones in color and an additional threat. Lines placed underground are a great improvement for less congestion in the air space.

Another concern for our industry is the limited use of aerial application on farmland with wind turbines. In addition, those who choose to place turbines on their property are limiting the use of spray planes on their neighbors land as well. Aerial Applicators need 1 mile or more to turn around safely. A 500 foot setback is not enough for a loaded airplane. If a neighbor's property would be surrounded on one or more sides by wind turbines, the odds of hiring an Aerial Applicator would be extremely difficult.

Unfortunately, our Association knows first hand what happens when airplanes and wind turbines collide. We will never recover from our loss. We ask that you please consider the safety of not only our pilots, but all pilots when making your decisions for wind farms across our state.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions,

The South Dakota Aviation Association Board of Directors

SOUTH DAKOTA AVIATION ASSOCIATION

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