

# South Dakota Aviation Association

---

August 9, 2021

Dear PUC,

The push is on for renewable energy. While we see areas of South Dakota currently using wind energy, we ask that you take a look at the long term effects for others who use the ground and air here in South Dakota.

Aerial Applicators provide a valuable resource to Agriculture here in South Dakota. Our concern for the safety of our pilots is at the top of our priorities. Our pilots workspace, our entire Industry, is based on air space. 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. We appreciate your assistance on making sure these farms have strict lighting regulations to keep our pilots safe.

Agriculture is the top industry in our state. Those who place wind turbines on their property are limiting the use of spray planes on not only their own farmland, but also their neighbors. The impact on farming operations, especially those who produce crops like sunflowers, could be great. 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 ask for your continued support in safety and lighting for these farms on behalf of pilots everywhere. We are also willing to help answer any questions you may have for Aerial Applicators and the Ag Aviation Industry. Please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

The South Dakota Aviation Association Board of Directors

South Dakota Aviation Association

30977 165th Street

Gettysburg SD 57442

[www.sdagaviation.com](http://www.sdagaviation.com)

[Sdaviation@gmail.com](mailto:Sdaviation@gmail.com)

Phone 605-690-3477 (Andrea, Executive Director)