

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY NORTH BEND WIND
PROJECT, LLC FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE THE
NORTH BEND WIND PROJECT IN HYDE COUNTY AND HUGHES
COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

SD PUC DOCKET EL21-018

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF RYAN THOMPSON

Q. State your name.

A. My name is Ryan Thompson.

Q. State your employer.

A. Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC.

Q. State your specific job at Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC.

A. I am a branch manager.

Q. Explain the range of duties you perform.

A. I direct and manage production, distribution and marketing operations for the western 2/3 of North and South Dakota.

Q. On whose behalf was this testimony prepared.

A. This testimony was prepared on behalf of Michael Bollweg, Judi Bollweg, Bollweg Family, LLLP, and Tumbleweed Lodge.

Q. What were you asked to do.

A. I was asked to render a professional opinion concerning why aerial application of pesticides, etc., on sunflowers are necessary and why they cannot be applied by ground without extreme economic loss.

Q. What did you conclude.

A. To put it simply, sunflowers are just too tall and rank to drive a ground rig through. It would completely destroy crops where the sprayer drives. Also, the timing is so critical that there is no way it would be possible to get across all the

acres in a timely manner using a ground rig. The economic impact of either one is critical for sunflower production. As far as the wheat and fungicide at heading, it follows the same impacts as the flowers by not being able to use aerial application. There tracks from the ground rig would probably cause a 90-95% loss, once the wheat is jointed and the stalk breaks it will not come back or stand back up. And once a again agriculture is about timing and the efficacy of a head treatment at flowering is even more precise, just not enough ground sprayers to do. The impact of not putting on a head treatment could result 5-35% decrease in yield depending on pressure.

Dated this 6 of Jan, 2022.



RYAN THOMPSON