

From: Michelle Oftedahl [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2026 3:22 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] EL25-028

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing in regards to the application for the MRES Toronto Power Plant. I am part of a large group of farm families that lives within a two mile radius of the proposed site. I am a fifth generation farmer with a 16 year old daughter who hopes to become the sixth. Our farm is a recognized Quasquicentennial Farm and the idea that our family farm might not make it another generation because of the unintended effects of corporate economic development is painful beyond words. We aren't against having development, but our county's Comprehensive Plan states we are an agricultural county, not an industrial energy county. We have seen project after project get approved here, and they just keep coming. I ask you, when is enough, enough? We have two wind farms with a third approved, plus one power plant already. There's another two officially proposed power plants, plus a data center and a 765kV transmission line. Land for two more power plants is also said to be under contract. It really seems our government has designated our town as a sacrifice area.

What really makes this worse is that now we have investment companies coming in offering huge sums of money per acre because they're betting on new development. If you approve this project, it will signal to investors that Deuel County farmland is fair game. Land that's cheap to them is completely out of reach for local farmers. How do you expect our next generation of young farmers to compete against prices like that? By allowing continued development, you're essentially telling kids like our daughter, "Don't bother staying around to farm, we care more about big economic development than helping you succeed as the next generation of family farms."

Those of us that live here really feel like we've already sacrificed our fair share to the industrial complex, and we're flat out begging you to not destroy our way of life and the future of our family farms here. We've lost thousands of South Dakota family farms in the past decade, please really consider how this choice may add to that list.

Governor Rhoden recently stated that food security is national security. Encouraging corporations to turn our farmland into unrecoverable concrete lots and making it harder for our family farms to succeed seems to go against that idea and everything South Dakota values used to stand for.

Sincerely,
Michelle Oftedahl
[REDACTED]
Toronto, SD 57268
[REDACTED]