

From: Jane Amiotte [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 10:03 AM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Public comment in support of Crowned Ridge Energy Storage (Docket #EL26-014)

Dear South Dakota Public Utilities Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for Crowned Ridge Energy Storage, a responsibly sited storage project that will maximize the local benefits of homegrown wind power and help strengthen South Dakota's energy independence.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the Crowned Ridge Battery Energy Storage Project.

This project represents a practical and forward-thinking investment in South Dakota's energy future. By storing energy generated by the existing Crowned Ridge Wind Farm when production is high and delivering that energy back to the grid when demand increases, the project will help improve grid reliability and resilience while making effective use of energy already being produced locally.

Because Crowned Ridge has a long-term contract with Northern States Power, the benefits of this project will remain within the region, supporting the needs of South Dakota homes, businesses, schools, and communities. Energy storage can help stabilize the electric grid, improve energy reliability during periods of peak demand, and strengthen our capacity to meet future energy needs.

An important advantage of this proposal is that it is being located on land that is already dedicated to energy production. Utilizing an existing energy site minimizes the need for additional land disturbance and allows infrastructure to be concentrated in an area where industrial energy development is already established. The project's relatively small footprint and thoughtful siting also help reduce potential impacts on neighboring landowners and daily community life.

Modern battery energy storage facilities are designed and operated under rigorous safety standards. I appreciate that the project developers have coordinated with local emergency responders and worked to ensure that the facility can operate safely and responsibly within the community.

In addition to its energy benefits, the project is expected to generate substantial economic value for Codington County through increased tax revenues, support for local services, and workforce opportunities. These benefits can help strengthen local infrastructure, enhance community services, and contribute to the county's long-term economic prosperity.

The Crowned Ridge Battery Energy Storage Project builds upon the region's existing energy leadership while helping create a more reliable, resilient, and efficient electric system. I believe it is a responsible use of existing energy infrastructure and will provide meaningful benefits to both local residents and the broader region.

Thank you for considering my comments in support of this project.

This project is a common-sense, valuable opportunity to support Codington County's economy and build a stronger grid for South Dakota. I urge the Commission to support this project, to make the most of homegrown wind energy and power our state's future.

Sincerely,
Jane Amiotte

[REDACTED]

Hermosa, SD 57744

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