South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

Docket EL26-026 Poweron Midwest Project

Landower/farm family: Landsman/Jung

Township: Alton T110R 48W

Brookings County

142 Acres owned

135 Farmed

Currently Rented Out

Property in family 100+ Years

RECEIVED

OCT 28 2026

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Dustin Jung

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Docket EL26-026 — PowerOn Midwest Project

Formal Public Comment and Objection Regarding the Proposed 765-kV Transmission Line Affecting the NW ¼ and SW ¼ of Section 26, Alton Township, Brookings County, South Dakota

Dear South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioners,

My name is Dustin Jung, and I am writing to express my deep personal concerns regarding the proposed PowerOn Midwest Project and the potential impact of its 765-kilovolt transmission lines on the northwest quarter and southwest quarter of Section 26 in Alton Township, Brookings County, South Dakota.

I am a farmer and a father, and this issue is deeply personal to me. The land at the center of my concerns has been in my family for over 100 years. For more than a century, this land has represented hard work, sacrifice, and the commitment of generations of my family. It is more than acreage or a property boundary on a map. It is part of my family's history, our livelihood, and the legacy we hope to preserve for the generations who come after us.

As a farmer, I understand the time, effort, and financial commitment it takes to maintain productive land. As a father, I feel a responsibility to protect what has been entrusted to me and to preserve the opportunity for my children and future generations to enjoy the same connection to this land that my family has had for over a century.

That is why the possibility of a 765-kV transmission line affecting this property concerns me so deeply.

I understand that electricity is necessary and that reliable energy infrastructure is important. However, I believe the needs of a large infrastructure project must be carefully balanced against the rights, livelihoods, and long-term interests of the families whose land may be affected. Decisions made in this proceeding could have consequences that last for generations, and I ask that the Commission give those consequences the serious consideration they deserve.

1. Protecting My Family and the Next Generation

As a father, my children's safety and future are always on my mind. I want to know that decisions affecting the land around us are being made carefully, based on sound evidence, and with the well-being of families in mind.

I have concerns about the potential safety risks associated with extremely high-voltage transmission infrastructure, as well as questions about electromagnetic fields and long-term exposure. I recognize that scientific research has not established that typical long-term exposure to power-frequency electromagnetic fields causes adverse health effects. However, I believe these concerns deserve transparent, independent evaluation and clear answers.

I ask the Commission to ensure that families living near the proposed route receive understandable information about potential risks, applicable safety standards, expected exposure levels, and the safeguards that would be put in place.

As a father, I believe it is my responsibility to ask these questions and ensure that decisions affecting my family's future are not taken lightly.

2. Protecting Over 100 Years of Family History and Agricultural Heritage

The land identified in this letter, specifically the NW ¼ and SW ¼ of Section 26 in Alton Township, has a history with my family that extends back more than 100 years. That history means something to me. It represents generations of work and the effort it takes to maintain and pass down a valuable piece of South Dakota's agricultural heritage.

Land that has remained in a family for more than a century should not be viewed simply as available space for infrastructure. It carries personal, historical, and financial significance that cannot easily be replaced.

The potential placement of large transmission towers, access roads, and associated infrastructure could permanently change the character and use of this property. Even if farming could continue around the structures, the presence of permanent infrastructure and easement restrictions could change how the land is worked, maintained, and passed on to future generations.

I ask the Commission to recognize that the potential impacts go beyond the initial construction period. The decisions made today could affect how my family uses and manages this land for decades to come.

I respectfully request that the Commission carefully examine whether reasonable alternatives could avoid or reduce these impacts and give meaningful consideration to the historical significance of this property to my family.

3. Protecting Farmland and Our Agricultural Way of Life

As a farmer, I know that productive land requires careful management, investment, and hard work. Transmission towers and construction activities can interfere with large farm equipment, field access, drainage systems, soil conditions, crop production, spraying operations, and future agricultural improvements.

For the specific property identified in this letter, I request a thorough, property-specific assessment of the proposed route and its potential effects on normal farming operations.

I am concerned about the possibility of permanent structures and easements limiting how the land can be used long after construction crews have left. I also want to know how construction damage, drainage problems, reduced productivity, and other documented losses would be addressed.

The ability to farm efficiently matters not only to the current landowner but also to the long-term productivity and value of the property. I ask the Commission to require consideration of alternative routes, tower placements, and construction methods that would minimize interference with productive farmland.

4. Property Rights and the Right to Make Decisions About Our Land

One of my biggest concerns is the long-term effect this project could have on property rights and the ability of landowners to make decisions about their own land.

An easement for a major transmission line can impose restrictions that remain in place for decades. These restrictions may affect agricultural practices, maintenance access, future improvements, and the ability to manage or transfer property according to a family's wishes.

When land has been in a family for over 100 years, decisions about its future carry a particular weight. I feel a responsibility to respect the work of the generations who came before me while making sound decisions for those who will come after me.

I ask the Commission to carefully examine the proposed route, consider reasonable alternatives, and ensure that landowners receive clear information about easement terms, compensation, liability, maintenance access, and long-term obligations.

The families whose land may be affected deserve a meaningful voice in decisions that could permanently change their property.

5. The Financial Future of Rural Families

Farming involves financial risks, significant investments, and years of planning. Land values, crop production, operating costs, and the ability to use property effectively all matter when making decisions about a family's financial future.

I am concerned about the potential effects of large transmission structures and associated easements on property values, agricultural productivity, and future land use.

For my family, this concern is especially significant because of the land's long history. Preserving family land is not just about its present value. It is also about protecting an asset that has been maintained across generations and may one day be passed on to another generation.

I ask the Commission to require a serious evaluation of these potential financial impacts and to ensure that the burdens placed on individual landowners are not overlooked when weighing the project's claimed public benefits.

6. Protecting the Rural Community We Call Home

South Dakota's rural communities are built on agriculture, hard work, independence, and neighbors helping neighbors. Generations of families have invested their time and resources into building these communities and maintaining the land that supports them.

Projects of this size can permanently change the appearance and character of the countryside. They may also affect wildlife, natural resources, and the way agricultural land is used.

I ask the Commission to consider not only the engineering and economic aspects of the PowerOn Midwest Project, but also the human impact on the people who call these communities home.

The people affected by these decisions should have a genuine opportunity to ask questions, examine the evidence, raise concerns, and receive meaningful answers before decisions are finalized.

7. A Request for a Thorough and Fair Review

I respectfully ask the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission to:

- Require independent, project-specific assessments of public safety, electromagnetic fields, agricultural impacts, environmental effects, noise, and property values.
- Carefully evaluate the proposed route's impacts on the NW ¼ and SW ¼ of Section 26, Alton Township, Brookings County.
- Give consideration to the fact that this land has been in my family for over 100 years and that the project could affect its future use and legacy.
- Examine reasonable alternative routes and technologies that could reduce impacts on farmland and nearby families.
- Make relevant studies, engineering reports, route maps, and risk assessments available to affected landowners.
- Ensure that landowners have a meaningful opportunity to participate in the process and have their concerns addressed.
- Require enforceable protections for agricultural operations, drainage systems, construction damage, land restoration, and long-term maintenance.

- Consider the long-term financial, personal, and generational consequences for rural families alongside the project's claimed public benefits.

I ask that the Commission recognize that these concerns are not simply an objection to new infrastructure. They come from a farmer who has a personal stake in the land, a family history spanning more than a century, and a responsibility to consider what will be left for future generations.

My Final Appeal

I am not writing this letter because I fail to understand the importance of electricity or the need for reliable energy infrastructure. I am writing because I believe those goals must be pursued responsibly, with respect for the people whose land and livelihoods may be affected.

My family has had a connection to this land for over 100 years. Generations before me worked to maintain it, make it productive, and preserve it. I do not take that history lightly, and I do not believe decisions that could permanently alter the property should be made without thoroughly examining every reasonable alternative.

As a farmer, I want to protect the land and the work that goes into it. As a father, I want to protect my family's future and preserve opportunities for the generations who follow me. I want my children to understand the value of hard work and to have the opportunity to carry forward the legacy that previous generations worked so hard to build.

I cannot help but think about what this decision could mean twenty, thirty, or fifty years from now. The transmission structures may remain long after the people who approved them have moved on. My family, and the families who live and work in this area, will continue to live with the consequences.

More than 100 years of family history deserves to be taken seriously. I ask the Commission to look beyond the lines on a project map and recognize the people, sacrifices, livelihoods, and legacies connected to the land that may be affected.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Commission to withhold approval of the PowerOn Midwest Project as it affects the identified property unless and until the applicants demonstrate that the project meets all applicable requirements, reasonable alternatives have been thoroughly evaluated, and the concerns of affected landowners have been adequately addressed. If those requirements cannot be met, I ask the Commission to deny the application.

Please include this letter in the official record for Docket EL26-026 and give full consideration to the concerns of my family and other farmers and landowners who may be affected by this project.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I hope the Commission will recognize that behind every parcel of land on a transmission route map are real people, families, histories, and futures that deserve to be respected and protected.

Sincerely,

Dustin Jung

[redacted]
Madison, SD 57042

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