

From: Melissa Zemlicka [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 8:19 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Letter to PUC docket #EL26-026

Greetings from northeast South Dakota. I am writing to express my disappointment and dissatisfaction regarding this enormous powerline proposal. After reading through one of many of PowerOn Midwest's fluff pieces/pdfs, they are claiming that this line is needed to help with backup power needs. Perhaps they should consider building more power plants instead of all connecting to each other. With all the wars going on, it seems like it's putting us at a disadvantage to all be connected by the same lines (making us an easy target).

Our land should not be taken against our will especially if South Dakotans not get any benefit. My ancestors did not choose to live here to stare at big powerlines. I know folks claim we will get tax benefits but all I understand is my tax burden as a landowner. My house and farmland will decrease in value, yet I'll still be paying increased property tax (and increased utility rates to pay for the powerlines).

Another point I need to make is that our neighbor has a pacemaker. With Grant County not having their knowledge together and not having a set back agreed upon yet, these power lines could easily affect his pacemaker technology since the line would be 600ft from his house. (Not to mention affecting gps systems for emergency personnel).

My other concerns (which I have emailed PowerOn Midwest and still waiting response) include asking them how they are protecting our eagle population/migration (especially in the fog and wind), stray voltage affecting the railroad system, and who locally is qualified to fix any lightning/ice/structural damage. I also asked how much of the materials needed for this project will be sourced outside of the USA.

All I am requesting is a basic right to enjoy our home and land and being a proud South Dakotan. We are fifth generation full blooded farmers, we would like our children to be the sixth. Most of all, we would like our children to believe that the government listens to its loyal citizens and isn't a sellout to Fortune 500 companies that use electricity as a scare tactic for their own financial gain/stock value when it's all said and done.

Thank you for your time.

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