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Mary Nosbush
808 Grand Blvd.
PO Box 14
Gary, SD 57237

OCT 22 2026
**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

October 22, 2026
605-520-5641
maryfromgary@itctel.com

"Over-industrialization" is a term that our local group has coined to describe what is going on right now in South Dakota and in particular, Deuel County.

The name of our group is RURAL, Residents United for Rural and Ag Land.

Time and time again, our county has been approached by large scale, indeed industrial-scale, projects that do not fit into our county's Comprehensive Plan.

We are truly a rural county: have you noticed? With a population of a little over 4,000 people, our county does not have even one traffic control light.

Why would we want large-scale industrial projects to be plopped down in the middle of farms? They belong in or adjacent to cities.

The Comprehensive Plan states that projects are to be sited with minimum disruption to agriculture, our primary form of economic activity.

Running a giant 765-kV powerline through this county does not fit with the Comprehensive Plan!

Last night I drove half the distance of the proposed route here in Deuel County, between my daughter and son-in-law's home in Lowe Twp to my home in Gary, after spending the day helping with kids so they could harvest. There was scarcely a mile passed where I didn't see the lights of harvesting equipment, operating into the night hours.

Curious. Why are these meetings being held during the height of grain harvest? I wonder how many more affected landowners would have attended these meetings had they been scheduled for November or December?

Do we want farms? Do we want to maintain agriculture? Do we want to continue generational agriculture? Do we want human families to live on and steward the land? My family has eight generations in South Dakota agriculture. When the best crop and rangeland has been sucked up by industrial energy projects, where will the grain come from? Where will the beef and pork come from? Where will the dairy products come from?

The far reaching socio-economic impacts of this project cannot be understated.

SD law 49-41B-22 requires the applicant to *prove* they will not harm current or FUTURE inhabitants of the project area. They must *prove* they will not harm the orderly development of the project area.

As stated in both Brookings and Grant Counties already this week, this project will devastate the future of family farms in the project area. These are significant examples of socio-economic impacts.

That same state law also says that if the County gives the project a Conditional Use Permit, they have met all the criteria. Make sure the Zoning Board in your county understands the gravity of their decision.