

August 26, 2019

Patricia Van Gerpen  
Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 E. Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501  
[puc@state.sd.us](mailto:puc@state.sd.us)

RE: GW 19-002, In re High Country Mercantile, Inc.

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen,

Ms. Pam Connally, President of High Country Mercantile, Inc. ("HCM"), has asked this firm to represent HCM in this matter before the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (the "Commission"). Ms. Connally initially thought she would be able to handle this matter without representation, but now has come to the conclusion it is best to have legal counsel. She regrets any delays she possibly could have avoided in obtaining HCM's license and bond. She understands now complying with the requirements was more involved than she anticipated.

In order for us to represent HCM, we must first ask the Commission to reschedule the hearing currently scheduled for September 3, 2019. Not only do we need time to get up to speed on this matter, neither Ms. Connally nor myself are available on September 3.

Secondly, we would like to have access to the information identified as confidential that was filed with the Amended Complaint, including the information identified as confidential that was filed with Mr. Paul Kenefick-Aschoff's Affidavit.

Finally, and more importantly, we would like to be able to work with the Commission in settling this matter. As you may be aware, HCM is a grain merchandizer that has purchased more than \$3 million dollars of grain in South Dakota over the past five years from state-licensed grain elevators in South Dakota – HCM has not and does not purchase from producers. HCM has never defaulted on payments to any of its sellers. And HCM is now licensed and bonded, although the process took longer than it should have because of HCM's lack of understanding of what was required.

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Please let me know how to best proceed in working with the Commission to arrive at a fair settlement of this matter. I will follow up this letter with a call to you.

I can be reached at 307-586-4135 or via email at [david@bonnerlawfirm.com](mailto:david@bonnerlawfirm.com).  
Thank you.

Sincerely,



David I. Beckett  
Senior Counsel

DIB/as

cc: Pam Connally