Chris Nelson, Chairman
Kristie Fiegen, Vice Chairperson
Gary Hanson, Commissioner

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November 19, 2026

Leah Mohr
Executive Director
Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: New Grain Docket – In the Matter of the Grain Buyer Bond of Hansen-Mueller Co.

Ms. Mohr,

Attached for filing as a new docket, please find Staff's Letter to Harco National Insurance Company and International Fidelity Insurance Company regarding the grain buyer bond of Hansen-Mueller Co. (Hansen-Mueller). Hansen-Mueller, a licensed grain buyer until July 1, 2026, is currently going through Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. Prior to the expiration of Hansen-Mueller's license, purchases were made from South Dakota producers, some of which would be subject to bond coverage.

Staff has been attempting to obtain the bond since January 29, 2026. Staff has also been navigating the bankruptcy case since Hansen-Mueller filed on November 17, 2025. Information obtained through the bankruptcy made staff aware that there may be producers who were not paid in FY2024. Therefore, Staff updated our request from two fiscal years' worth of bonds, to requesting three fiscal years' worth of bonds in order to pay those producers. Staff received the bond funds on November 17, 2026 for FY26, FY25, and FY24.

Staff requests a docket be opened at this time so that we may take necessary action on the bond.

Sincerely,

Jennie L. Fuerst

Jennie L. Fuerst
Staff Attorney