## Black Hills Community Economic Development, Inc.

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September 21, 2009

TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline 7505 NW Tiffany Springs Parkway Northpointe Circle II, Suite 400 Kansas City, MO 64153

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Black Hills Community Economic Development, Inc. is a regional organization that supports and promotes economic development activities in South Dakota. We are supportive of the TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline for two major reasons:

- a) It serves the national interest;
- b) It will have a major economic impact in South Dakota during the construction phase as well as long-term tax revenue to support local schools and counties.

Secondly, we urge you to select Harding County in northwestern South Dakota as a staging area for the construction. The proposed route of the pipeline will cross Harding County diagonally and the county has numerous local contractors, expertise and is friendly toward petroleum companies due to a long history of oil and gas exploration and production.

Lastly, we understand that Tom Wilson from Buffalo, SD is a bidder for the contract to provide needed services during the construction phase. We believe that he would be an excellent contractor because Harding County is his home and he has connections and the capability to be very responsive and professional in performing contractual responsibilities. He is very well respected and would certainly be an excellent contractor.

In summary, we support Keystone XL, urge you to select Harding County in South Dakota for a construction staging site and believe that Tom Wilson has the experience and capabilities to be an outstanding contractor.

If you have questions, contact me by calling (605) 347-1840.

Thank you for your consideration,

James L. Doolittle, Executive Director

C: Tom Wilson