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April 30, 2015

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 E. Capitol Ave  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Commissioners:

We write in support of TransCanada's Keystone XL Pipeline project and urge the department to grant the ongoing permit certification.

Our Association is made up of individuals, producers, non-producers, and a multitude of service-related companies throughout the entire State of South Dakota serving the oil and gas industry in the region. The Association has witnessed first hand TransCanada's willingness to share information with South Dakota landowners, government officials, and anyone who has had concerns about the project through countless hours of in depth discussion.

Pipelines provide the most reliable economical and environmentally favorable way to transport oil and petroleum products in South Dakota. Currently, thousands of miles of pipeline safely deliver petroleum and other energy liquids through South Dakota, including the original Keystone operated by TransCanada. The oil sands crudes have been transported in the United States for years. There is nothing new or special about this pipeline other than the overwhelming degree of safety inherent in its engineering. The compliance TransCanada has shown regarding technological advancements elevates the level of dedication they have provided to this project, well above any other pipeline project in the history of the United States.

We would like to reiterate to you how important the Keystone XL Pipeline is to South Dakotans. The Keystone XL Pipeline will cross 8 counties in western South Dakota, making it one of the most complimentary and economically viable projects to impact rural communities in recent history. The State of South Dakota, counties, and local school districts would all increase their tax base seeing up to an additional \$20 million in annual property taxes alone.

With over \$100 million in earnings as a result of construction alone, this project will help fund our schools and help maintain our county roads, where there is continued budgetary strain with little to zero viable opportunities to support these services without raising property taxes to our rural residents. The Keystone XL project has been and continues to be opportunity for all of us in South Dakota.

We sincerely hope the Keystone XL project will move forward as another long-term asset in our business-friendly State.

Sincerely,

Adam M. Martin  
Executive Director