

House of Representatives
State of Iowa
Eighty-Sixth General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

March 5, 2015

**FILED WITH
Executive Secretary**

March 05, 2015

IOWA UTILITIES BOARD

Iowa Utilities Board
1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0069

Re: Docket No. HLP-2014-0001

Dear Chairperson Jacobs, Board Member Wagner and Board Member Tipton:

As members of the Iowa General Assembly, we write to urge the Iowa Utilities Board to commission an independent environmental impact assessment to be financed by Dakota Access, LLC, before ruling on the applicant's petition for a hazardous liquid pipeline permit.

We further request that the Board place conditions and restrictions on the permit, or reject the application altogether, as may be justified by the findings of such an assessment, in light of the Board's power to require that proposals be just and proper, as well as promote the public necessity.

Preserving our natural resources and protecting the health and safety of Iowans are public necessities.

We do not pre-judge the issues that would be explored in an environmental assessment. However, we are concerned about pipeline accidents reported in Montana, Louisiana, Arkansas, Michigan, California, Missouri, Texas, Ohio and elsewhere.

In addition, at public meetings in counties along the proposed Dakota Access pipeline route, citizens have identified numerous issues that merit investigation. Among them:

- 1) Safety risks and hazards associated with the product(s) to be transported through the pipeline (volatility, etc.)
- 2) Potential damage to water, land, soil, water, air and wildlife/wildlife habitat during construction;

- 3) Threats to the environment, farmland, wildlife and public health as a result of spills or explosions, especially where the pipeline would cross rivers and their tributaries;
- 4) Spill prevention and clean-up provisions;
- 5) Liability for damages to both public and private property and sufficiency of resources to cover such liability;
- 6) Adequacy of inspection/monitoring/enforcement mechanisms and resources;
- 7) Responsibility for planning, training and equipping for emergency response;
- 8) Indirect impacts of the oil extraction process facilitated by the pipeline that may affect public health and safety as well as environmental security (e.g., carbon and methane emissions, water contamination, expansion of silica sand mining, etc).

We trust that these and other concerns have been communicated to the Utilities Board directly by those who would be affected by the project and other interested Iowans.

We encourage the Board to exercise its authority to determine the appropriate terms, conditions, and restrictions for a pipeline permit by requiring a thorough independent assessment of these and related matters and to seriously consider the findings before granting or refusing to grant a pipeline construction permit to Dakota Access, LLC.

We thank you for your time and for your attention to our recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]

State Rep. Charles Isenhart
Ranking member, Environmental Protection Committee

[REDACTED]

State Rep. Bobby Kaufmann
Chair, Government Oversight Committee

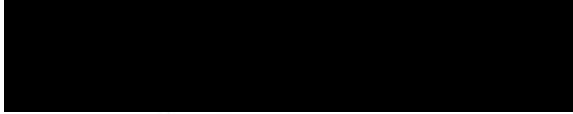
[REDACTED]

State Rep. Sharon Steckman
Assistant Minority Leader and Member, Environmental Protection Committee



State Rep. Marti Anderson
Ranking member, Administration and Rules Committee

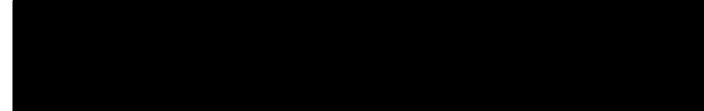
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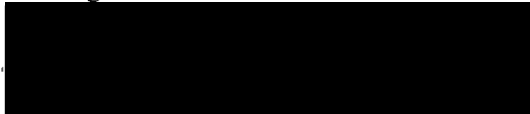
State Rep. Curt Hanson
Ranking member, Natural Resources Committee



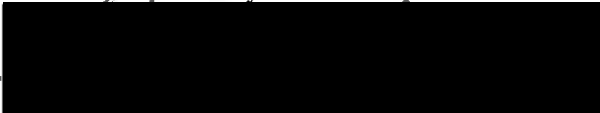
State Rep. Greg Heartsill
Vice-chair, Government Oversight and Local Government Committees



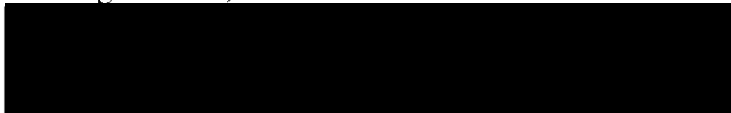
Rep. Ruth Ann Gaines
Ranking member, Government Oversight Committee



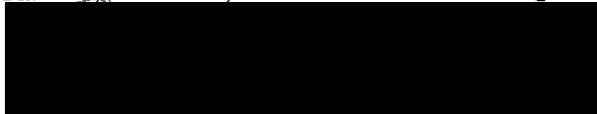
Rep. Mary Gaskill
Assistant Minority Leader



Rep. Jerry Kearns
Ranking member, Veterans Affairs Committee



State Rep. Dan Kelley
Ranking member, Administration and Regulation Appropriations Subcommittee



State Rep. Bob Kressig
Ranking member, Public Safety Committee



State Rep. Vicki Lensing
Ranking member, State Government Committee

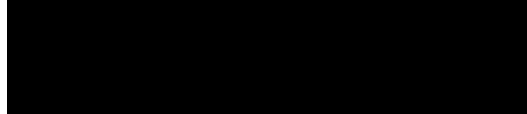


State Rep. Zach Nunn
Vice-chair, Economic Growth Committee

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State Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell
Ranking member, Human Resources Committee



State Rep. Liz Bennett
Member, Environmental Protection Committee