

Open letter from Dakota Access Pipeline workers to North Dakota elected officials regarding proposed rules for installation of gathering pipelines

We are pipeline construction workers who have worked hard every day to make Dakota Access the safest pipeline in North Dakota. Despite the protests and threats to our safety, we are proud of our work. Building pipelines is how we support our families, and it's the best way we can help make North Dakota a safer and better place to live.

Unfortunately, our pipeline industry is under attack like never before. It's been proven that pipelines are the safest way to transport oil, natural gas, and other hazardous liquids. Yet pipeline opponents are succeeding in their efforts to persuade some members of the public that pipelines are a danger rather than a benefit.

We fight every day to counter misinformation and misconceptions in our communities and in the media. But nothing we say or do matters more than making sure that each and every pipeline is properly built, maintained, and operated in order to prevent the environmental and safety problems that threaten the reputation and future of our industry.

We are doing our part, working hard every day to make Dakota Access the safest pipeline in North Dakota. But we can't uphold high standards and protect the reputation of the pipeline industry alone. We need North Dakota's elected officials to do their job to ensure that every pipeline is being built to the same high standards as Dakota Access.

As far as the public is concerned, a spill is a spill whether it comes from a high-quality, well-regulated transmission line or a gathering line that was poorly-built with little oversight. The most damaging spills in North Dakota's history have come from unregulated gathering lines, but try explaining that to a member of the public who's worried about their drinking water.

North Dakota has many responsible pipeline operators, but there are also a handful that either don't know or don't care enough to do the job right. As someone on the front lines of the Dakota Access fight, we don't want to let a few bad actors ruin it for everyone else by building leaky pipelines that damage the

state's natural resources and the reputation of our industry.

The North Dakota Industrial Commission has proposed sensible rules that would solve the problem by forcing every pipeline company to build gathering lines to the standard that responsible operators already meet. The rules could have gone into effect on October 1, but the implementation has been delayed. As a result, another 1,500 miles of risky gathering pipelines will be built without standards or oversight.

As skilled workers who are making careers in the pipeline industry, we know that we can't afford any more delays. We're asking North Dakota's elected officials to listen to the voices of the men and women working in the trenches and implement the new rules without delay. Only by taking the necessary action can we protect all of North Dakota's abundant resources and ensure a bright future for our industry.

Respectfully,

Signature

Ronald E. Jugh

Chris Ward

Chad Ward

Randy Bailey

Dewell Brantton

Ron Dow

Dustin Wilk

Don O'Quinn

R. F. Walsh

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