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July 19, 2012

The Honorable Jon Wellinghoff
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Chairman Wellinghoff:

I am writing in regard to a pipeline interconnection issue in Clearbrook, Minnesota, that is currently pending before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

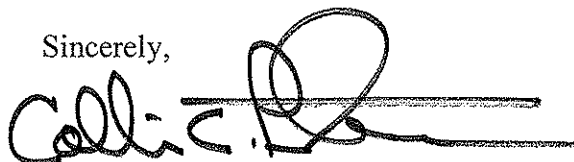
Clearbrook is the nearest regional hub for transporting crude oil to the east by pipeline from the Bakken Formation in North Dakota. Currently, only one pipeline runs eastward across North Dakota to Minnesota, and there is a critical need for additional pipeline capacity to support oil production in this region.

Several constituents have raised concerns about possible discriminatory practices that could be impeding the construction of new pipelines and blocking potential investments in infrastructure. We need to ensure that new market participants have open access to the common carrier pipelines located across the country and are given the same treatment as more established companies. All market participants should have confidence that they are operating on a level playing field.

I encourage FERC to give fair and prompt consideration to these concerns in order to ensure a fair platform for the development of energy infrastructure that is essential to meeting our energy needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

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