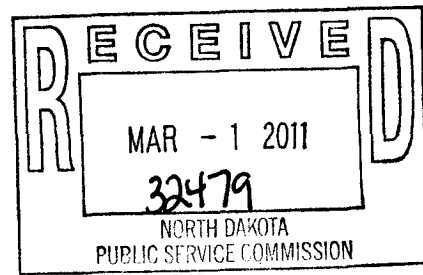


February 23, 2011



Dear North Dakota Public Service Commission,

I am writing to request that a formal public hearing be held on the matter of the proposed South Heart coal extraction project. Clearly this proposal is one that will have immediate and long-term effects upon the North Dakota community, and it is in our interest as community members and citizens of a democracy to voice our concerns regarding the impact of this project upon our environment, our economy and our way of life.

I stand with the hundreds of farmers and ranchers of the South Heart region who oppose this project on the grounds that it places the interests of an out-of-state company over the interests of local individuals. Failure to hold a public hearing on the matter would represent a failure to listen to the citizens whom you represent.

I believe that a formal public hearing would afford both proponents and opponents of the project an opportunity to voice their concerns and interests, so that all interests and motivations can be made apparent and formally recorded.

Thank you for hearing my concerns and I trust that both in your capacities as public servants and as public citizens you will recognize and act upon the need for a public hearing on a project with such far-reaching consequences for the state of North Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian McGinness", with a long, sweeping underline.

Brian McGinness

Farmer

McGinness  
4940 HWY 1806  
Mandan, ND 58554