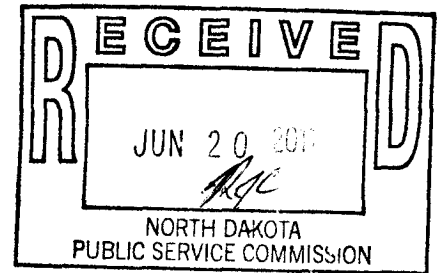


June 16, 2011

Commissioner Kevin Cramer
Public Service Commission
State of North Dakota
600 East Boulevard Ave. Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505



Dear Commissioner Cramer:

In the last three years, you have accepted campaign contributions from parties with direct financial interests in the development of the South Heart mine and adjacent facilities totaling at least \$11,150, as summarized in the table below. One contributor, Corbin Robertson, the managing partner of the entity that owns Great Northern Power Development, of which South Heart Coal is a subsidiary, is the source of \$10,300 of those funds. These are significant sums: over 6% of your 2010 campaign contributions of \$174, 772.

Contributions to Cramer Campaign by South Heart Financially Interested Parties:

Contributing Party	Nature of Interest	Contribution Amount	Date
Brian Bjella, <i>Bismarck, ND</i>	Counsel to GTL Energy	\$600	10/13/2010
Corbin Robertson <i>Houston, TX</i>	Managing partner, Quintana Capital Group, owner of Great Northern Power Development. Applicant is a subsidiary of GNPD.	\$4800	9/7/2010
Robert French, <i>Wellington, CO</i>	GTL Energy CEO	\$250	8/25/2010
Corbin Robertson	See above	\$2500	8/6/2009
Barbara Robertson	Spouse of Corbin Robertson	\$2500	8/6/2009
Corbin Robertson	See above	\$500	8/14/2008

We believe that these contributions by parties with direct financial interests in the South Heart development create a conflict of interest for you. The Public Service Commission has adopted a policy addressing conflicts of interest which provides:

No commissioner, commission employee, or agent, shall participate in a commission decision if a conflict of interest, real or apparent, would be involved. A conflict would arise when the commissioner, the employee or agent, any member or his immediate family, his partner or an individual firm or organization which employs or is about employ the commissioner, commission employee, his immediate family member, or partner has a financial or other interest directly and substantially affected by the commission decision.

Memorandum to P.S.C. staff, December 15, 1987.

We feel that your acceptance of significant campaign contributions from individuals with ownership stakes in South Heart Coal constitutes a real or apparent conflict of interest barred by the PSC's own policy. We therefore respectfully request that, in light of the public appearance of a conflict of interest in this important matter, you recuse yourself from any further deliberation on issues related to the proposed development at South Heart.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Hodell
Neighbors United
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