

January 3, 2022

Mr. Steve Kahl  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 480  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: Dakota Natural Gas, LLC  
Natural Gas Facilities – Portland, ND – Traill County  
Case Nos. PU-21-424 and PU-21-431

Dear Mr. Kahl and the North Dakota Public Service Commission;

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I am grateful to the chance to express my organization's support, as well as my personal support, regarding Dakota Natural Gas LLC's (DNG) expansion of natural gas service into Portland, N.D.

Our office, Traill County Economic Development Commission, has been working with DNG since 2018 to deliver the option of natural gas service to the communities within Traill County.

A portion of that mission was accomplished last fall with the completion of natural gas infrastructure being built out in Mayville and Hillsboro, and with DNG covering the cost of the project. DNG's plan to continue to increase the service area west into Portland will deliver this alternative energy source to the businesses and residents there. This seems like a natural progression that hopefully can help lead to further westward and northward progress, such as the Hatton area.

We see this as a great opportunity for expansion opportunities for our current businesses for myriad reasons: lower energy costs, increased productivity, and higher production capacity. Keeping this momentum going is something we support and will continue to support. DNG has proven themselves to be a great partner for our communities.

The build-out last spring and summer went very quickly and efficiently. DNG and their contracting partners built into the neighborhoods, along rights of way, and through the business districts in Hillsboro and Mayville with minimum intrusion and maximum effort. The teamwork they exhibited within the various municipalities (cities, county, and townships) in that effort is a model for other similar businesses to follow, in my opinion.

8 PU-21-431 Filed 01/03/2022 Pages: 2 Letter of support  
Traill County Economic Development  
Jim Murphy

12 PU-21-424 Filed 01/03/2022 Pages: 2  
Letter of support  
Traill County Economic Development  
Jim Murphy



The build-out was just the beginning of the relationship between DNG and the communities in Traill County; the company also set up a service office in Hillsboro, creating a handful of full-time jobs in the area, and has established themselves as a steward of the communities they serve.

The addition of natural gas to Hillsboro and Mayville already has been paying dividends, despite the project being in place only about six months. Several local businesses have increased production and planned upcoming expansions, partly based on the cost savings created by the switch to natural gas, and more companies are looking to locate in our rural area now that natural gas is available. We want to see this business growth continue across as many portions of the county as possible, eventually helping pave the way for natural gas availability in other underserved areas outside county lines, as well.

From a personal perspective, my experience with Dakota Natural Gas is this – they are a professional, efficient, and very thorough partner to work with. We have received glowing recommendations of the company from current and prospective customers, including large businesses and residential developers, who have passed along praise for DNG’s professionalism, courteousness, timeliness, and competence.

I would, and have, recommended this team to anyone who might ask my thoughts. That’s feeling is consistent throughout the company with all the representatives with whom I have worked.

Thank you taking the time to read this letter. I am happy to provide any other information you might need regarding our experience with Dakota Natural Gas. If you did have questions, my email is [director@traillcountyedc.com](mailto:director@traillcountyedc.com) or, if you prefer phone, you can contact my office at 701-636-4746.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Murphy', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jim Murphy  
Traill County EDC  
PO Box 856  
102 1<sup>st</sup> St. SW  
Hillsboro, ND 58045