



Anoka County

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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SCOTT SCHULTE
County Commissioner
District #7

May 25, 2016

Jamie MacAlister
MN Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Ste 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Subject: Pipeline Scoping

Dear Jamie MacAlister and Department of Commerce staff:

As you know, the Sandpiper and Line 3 Replacement projects are both vital to the state of Minnesota. The development of these projects would guarantee thousands of good-paying jobs, move oil underground for safer distribution, and give a boost to our local economy.

As the Anoka County Commissioner, I understand firsthand how these projects would benefit our state. Rail safety in the suburbs is a priority of mine, and we need to permit more efficiently for the sake of the entire state, of course, but right now we are facing a very serious rail safety issue in the area I represent. Efficient permitting of these pipelines is critical to the issue of rail safety.

A fair, timely and final evaluation of these two projects has been delayed for far too long. Any entity attempting to conduct business in the state of Minnesota relies on a predictable, consistent and timely regulatory process. Job creators need predictability and timeliness to do business in Minnesota.

I ask that the Department of Commerce adhere to the 280-day time limit to prepare the EIS to keep these project schedules on track. The scope of the EIS needs to be thorough to fully understand the impact of these projects. It should not, however, be overly broad or too narrow as to be inadequate. It should also serve both the public and private purpose of the two projects. This important balance must be met.

Thank you for your work for the state of Minnesota and your dedication in moving this process forward in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Scott Schulte
Anoka County Commissioner

By e-mail