Shelley Buck
State Representative
Bdewakantunwan Dakota

District 47A
Washington County

Minnesota House of Representatives

Dear Minnesota Public Utilities Commission,

My name is Shelley Buck, I am writing as an elected member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, a former Tribal leader, and an enrolled Dakota winyan to express outrage and disappointment at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's decision to permit the Magellan Pipeline Company to route a petroleum pipeline near the Pipestone National Monument. Despite recommendations by tribal leaders to implement a 5-mile buffer zone to protect the monument and surrounding lands, the commission voted to allow direct access that threatens harm.

For time immemorial—long before state boundaries, greedy corporations, and billionaires existed to commodify and exploit our natural relatives—our Native people, especially the Dakota Oyate have been the rightful stewards of this sacred earth. This land is not a resource to be traded for corporate profit; it is our foundation, our history, and our life. What is done to Unci Maka (Grandmother Earth) is done directly to us, her people. Despite over a dozen Tribal leaders unified in our vehement opposition, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has chosen to trample on our sovereignty and disregard our voices.

I take particular and deep offense at Commissioner John Tuma's disrespectful and dismissive remarks during the proceedings especially against Tribal Historical Preservation Offices (THPOs) who were raising their concerns around Chronicle's Heritage's survey method and negligence to involve several tribes and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC). Commissioner Tuma made a troubling comparison regarding the identification of cultural artifacts and the necessity of tribal inclusion. By trivializing sacred heritage—remarking that 'that's different than finding a Hams beer bottle'—the Commissioner fundamentally undermined the gravity of the situation. This analogy not only minimizes tribal significance but further illustrates a profound failure by the Commissioner and the PUC to grasp the magnitude and methodological importance of redesigning the survey.

Public service demands that decision-makers honor the public trust and positively impact the lives of all communities—yet what Commissioner Tuma displayed is a dangerous disregard for Tribal rights, ethical governance, and an arrogant complicity in the ongoing desecration of our sacred homelands.

We will not be silenced, and we will not stand idly by while our sacred catlinite quarries and ancestral lands are threatened by the poisons of corporate greed.

I stand in solidarity with my native relatives as we fight back against this assault on our sacred lands.

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Pidamayayepi,



State Representative Shelley Buck