

43290 180th St
Vienna, SD 57271

June 18, 2012

Representative Brian Gosch
SD Watershed Taskforce Member
312 Alta Vista Drive
Rapid City, SD 57701-2337

Dear Representative Gosch

My name is Roy Gjerde and I live and farm with my family in southern Clark County. I was pleased to hear about the formation of this task force to examine the water problems in eastern SD.

I would like to invite you to visit southern Clark County and see for yourselves the massive devastation that has been caused by the increase in size of Dry Lake #2 to encompass 20,000 acres. Several farmsteads have been abandoned and over 15,000 acres of farmland has been flooded. This water body historically was approximately 5000 acres of excellent wildlife habitat. Now the land is flooded, families have lost their homes, and the wildlife has been displaced.

Another area farmer and I paid for an engineering study to be done to determine the feasibility of a project to provide an outlet for this body of water that would restore our roads, our farmland, and our wildlife habitat. It was determined that a pipe and control gate could be installed at a total cost of under \$3 million. This is \$2 million less than the state of SD spent to build up highway 25, for the second time, in 2011. The release of water could be controlled so that the drainage would have absolutely zero negative effect on the downstream landowners. This project would restore \$60 million worth of farmland, 5000 acres of prime wildlife habitat, and miles of county and township roads.

This problem is a prime example of what your taskforce was formed to solve. As a landowner of flooded land I welcome an additional tax on my flooded acres that would make them productive.

Thank you for your time and please feel free to contact me at any time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy Gjerde', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Roy Gjerde
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