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WDEA Announces Support for Dakota Access Pipeline Optimization Project

(BISMARCK) The Western Dakota Energy Association today publicly announced its support for the construction of additional pump stations to expand (optimize) the crude oil transportation capacity of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL).

At its annual meeting last week, WDEA's Executive Committee voted to endorse the application of the pipeline's operator, Energy Transfer Partners, to build a new pump station in Emmons County that will expand DAPL's crude transportation capacity to up to 1.1 million barrels per day.

"Pipelines are far and away the safest, most efficient way to transport crude oil," said WDEA President Shannon Holter. "The alternatives – shipping crude by rail or moving it by truck – both present safety challenges that do not exist with pipelines."

Holter, who is a member of the Bowbells City Council, added that DAPL has been a boon to North Dakota oil producers and to the state's taxpayers. He said the optimization project is a "win-win-win" for the state, improving public safety and protecting the environment, while generating higher prices for North Dakota crude and more tax revenue for the state's citizens.

"Because pipelines are the safest and most efficient way to move crude oil, they reduce transportation costs, which adds roughly \$3.00 to the value of a barrel of North Dakota crude," Holter said. "North Dakota oil producers and royalty owners benefit from higher prices for crude oil, and the state's taxpayers benefit from the additional tax revenue that results from higher crude oil prices."

WDEA represents the collective interests and concerns of its member counties, cities and school districts that are impacted by energy development.

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"The Western Dakota Energy Association is the trusted and unified voice for the betterment of the citizens of North Dakota and the WDEA membership."