



November 20, 2019

The Honorable Neil Chatterjee, Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Chatterjee,

We face an emergency in the state of North Dakota. Our state is experiencing a severe propane distribution and supply issue that is putting our agriculture industry and the state's economy at grave risk. We are aware of, and appreciate, the recent efforts to address propane shortages in the Midwest through an alternative dispute resolution process. However, given the dire situation our agricultural producers face, we urge further action by the Commission to increase the supply of propane to North Dakota.

The state of North Dakota experienced significant spring flooding which resulted in delayed spring planting across the state. The delayed planting led to a late fall harvest season, which has been exacerbated by cold temperatures, record fall precipitation levels and heavy snowfall that saturated soil and inundated farmland. The U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service reported that as of November 18, only 23 percent of North Dakota's corn crop has been harvested, well behind the five-year average of 85 percent. The harvested crops have higher moisture content, and many have to be dried down to avoid spoilage. We estimate the current propane demand to be 100 percent to 200 percent higher than originally forecasted.

Moreover, the propane shortage is also impacting our livestock producers. Due to harvest and corn drying challenges, livestock producers are seeing a reduced supply of silage for feedstock. Our producers are facing one of the most difficult seasons in recent memory, on top of ongoing trade uncertainty and declining farm income. The propane shortage and the quadrupling of supply costs add to an already challenging year.

Beyond this, propane is necessary to provide residential heating to our citizens, particularly those in rural portions of the state. The effects of this propane crisis are being felt now, and immediate action is necessary to prevent this situation from becoming a greater risk to human welfare. These conditions threaten the peace, health, and safety of the citizens of North Dakota and its agriculture industry.

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Over the last few weeks, we have issued two Executive Orders to ease the hours of service regulations for propane and petroleum product transporters, and weight limit restrictions to allow vehicles transporting these products to be oversize and overweight. I urge you to take any action necessary to increase the supply of propane to North Dakota. Thank you for the opportunity to write this letter and for your urgent consideration of my request.

Respectfully submitted,



Doug Burgum
Governor