



# Policy Update

**October 20, 2023**

## **South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation Submits Comments on Dakota Access Pipeline**

The Army Corps of Engineers recently released a Draft Environment Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). DAPL is a crude oil pipeline that began operation in 2017. It is approximately 1,700 miles long and transports crude oil from the Bakken and Three Forks plays in North Dakota to a terminus in Patoka, Illinois. Approximately one mile of DAPL is buried in the ground below the bed of the Missouri River at Lake Oahe, which is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reservoir. Because the USACE is responsible for the management of Lake Oahe, the USACE has jurisdiction over rights-of-way through and under Lake Oahe for oil and gas pipelines. The DEIS will provide the USACE a decision on whether or not to grant an easement allowing DAPL to cross Lake Oahe.

SDFB has serious concerns surrounding the potential closure of DAPL as farmers and ranchers rely upon the Midwest rail system for the transportation of commodities to markets. By limiting pipeline access for crude oil, a shift in the transportation of oil from pipeline to rail would occur. This shift would result in a severe bottleneck in the rail system and place an economic hardship on South Dakota's leading economic driver.

To read South Dakota Farm Bureau's comments on the issue, please click [here](#).

## **Sustainable Models for Long-Term Care Summer Study Meets in Pierre**

The summer study on long-term care met in Pierre to finalize recommendations for the 2024 Legislative Session. The recommendations are designed to support South Dakota's aging population and resolve the issue of nursing home closure, especially in rural areas. At least 18 nursing homes in South Dakota have closed since 2015. Their study scope included examining the current and 10-year projected state of South Dakota's long-term care population, including total population, Medicaid-eligible population, geography, and services provided. The study further identified alternate or additional care delivery models, including models that emphasize long-term care in the home, regionalization of long-term care facilities, or affordable care for long-term care patients and the state of South Dakota. Finally, the study considered incentives for capital investment and innovation and sustainable funding mechanism for Medicaid-provided long-term care.

Combined, the 12 recommendations would cost South Dakota approximately \$9 million. The 12 recommendations are:

- Establishing a one-time \$5 million technology grant program.
- Expanding Medicaid reimbursement to palliative care.
- Increasing the personal needs allowance for Medicaid recipients.
- Creating a reimbursement program to incentivize nursing home mergers.

- Expanding and establishing new reimbursement rates for in-home services.
- Increasing reimbursements for remote patient monitoring services.
- Creating a health care workforce coalition.
- Joining interstate compacts for licensing health care professionals.
- Creating a waiver for long-term care facilities to accept adult day care participants.
- Supporting a feasibility study for a community-based program providing care to Medicaid recipients in urban areas.
- Redefining Medicaid eligibility for adult traumatic brain injury patients.
- Streamlining and updating the Department of Human Services' online portal for long-term care.

To learn more about the summer study, please click [here](#).

### **Lincoln County Considers CO2 Pipeline Ordinance**

The Lincoln County Commission recently discussed an ordinance for hazardous material pipelines. A proposed hazardous material pipeline ordinance specified a 500-foot setback distance between residences and other CO2 pipelines. Additionally, the proposal would have created a one-mile distance between municipalities and any CO2 pipelines 16 or more inches in diameter. The proposal was tabled by the Lincoln County Commission for 60 days on a 4-0 decision.

To learn more about the ordinance, please click [here](#).

### **Contact for Questions**

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