BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY NORTH BEND WIND PROJECT, LLC FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE THE NORTH BEND WIND PROJECT IN HYDE COUNTY AND HUGHES COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

SD PUC DOCKET EL21-018

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF RYAN THOMPSON

Q. State your name.

A. My name is Ryan Thompson.

Q. State your employer.

A. Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC.

Q. State your specific job at Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC.

A. I am a branch manager.

Q. Explain the range of duties you perform.

A. I direct and manage production, distribution and marketing operations for the western 2/3 of North and South Dakota.

Q. On whose behalf was this testimony prepared.

A. This testimony was prepared on behalf of Michael Bollweg, Judi Bollweg, Bollweg Family, LLLP, and Tumbleweed Lodge.

Q. What were you asked to do.

A. I was asked to render a professional opinion concerning why aerial application of pesticides, etc., on sunflowers are necessary and why they cannot be applied by ground without extreme economic loss.

Q. What did you conclude.

A. To put it simply, sunflowers are just too tall and rank to drive a ground rig through. It would completely destroy crops where the sprayer drives. Also, the timing is so critical that there is no way it would be possible to get across all the

acres in a timely manner using a ground rig. The economic impact of either one is critical for sunflower production. As far as the wheat and fungicide at heading, it follows the same impacts as the flowers by not being able to use aerial application. There tracks from the ground rig would probably cause a 90-95% loss, once the wheat is jointed and the stalk breaks it will not come back or stand back up. And once a again agriculture is about timing and the efficacy of a head treatment at flowering is even more precise, just not enough ground sprayers to do. The impact of not putting on a head treatment could result 5-35% decrease in yield depending on pressure.

Dated this 6 of Jan, 2022.

RYAN THOMPSON

NAME: Ryan Thompson

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Agronomy Degree from Fort hays State University
ADDRESS: 2921 Sussex Rd, Pierre, SD 57501

WORK EXPERIENCE AS IT APPLIES TO THE ISSUE AT HAND
2 yrs interning with Servi –Tech agronomy
3 years Crop quest out Dodge City scouting 20,000 ac/year of multiple crops
And 15 years with Helena, in multiple rolls, Retail salesman and now Branch Manager for western 2/3 of North and South Dakota

ANTICIPATED TESTIMONY (providing an expert perspective why aerial application of pesticides on sunflowers at bloom and fungicides at heading are necessary and cannot be applied by ground without extreme economic loss)
Sunflowers is the easy one, Simply they are just too tall and rank to drive a ground rig through it would completely destroy where the sprayer drove. Also the timing is so critical that there is no way it would be possible to get across all the acres in a timely manner. The economic impact of either one is critical for sunflower production

As far as the wheat and fungicide at heading, It follows the same impacts as the flowers by not being able to use aerial application. There tracks from the ground rig our probadly at a 90-95% loss, once the wheat is jointed and the stalk breaks it will not come back or stand back up. And once a again agriculture is about timing and the efficacy of a head treatment at flowering is even more precise, just not enough ground sprayers to do. The impact of not putting on a head treatment could result 5-35% decrease in yield depending on pressure