

Office of the President • 820 North Washington Ave. • Madison, SD 57042-1799 (605) 256-5112

April 17th, 2006

Russell Olson Manager of Economic Development Heartland Consumers Power District Box 248 Madison, SD 57042

RE: SD Highway 34 Four The Future Project

Dear Mr. Olson:

I am writing this letter in support of the efforts to continue developing Highway 34 into a Four-Lane highway between Madison and Interstate 29. As the president of Dakota State University, I understand how important this can be to the future development of the region. The flow of students and professionals who will spend time both in Madison and other parts of the state would certainly be facilitated by the completion of this project.

As you know, Dakota State University is the second largest employer in Madison and our continued growth will include additional support for education activities in Sioux Falls as well as the support for our on campus activities that we will receive from southeastern South Dakota.

The accessibility to services such as the airport in Sioux Falls makes the DSU campus even more attractive to faculty and other professionals we will be recruiting to Madison.

Sincerely,

Douglas Knowlton, Ph.D.

President

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