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October 28, 2008

Brian Gustafson, Administrator
Air Quality Program
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
523 East Capitol, Joe Foss Building
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

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**AIR QUALITY
PROGRAM**

RE: Hyperion Energy Center

Dear Mr. Gustafson:

I ask that you approve the air permit for the proposed Hyperion Energy Center without delay and hereby submit my formal comment.

I stalwartly believe that this refinery project is an opportunity the State of South Dakota and our nation must not pass up.

Every indication is that Hyperion is committed to building an environmentally sound and technologically advanced refinery with it being built using new but proven emissions control technologies. Further, Hyperion is committed to and is required to monitor operations to ensure compliance with the permit requirements.

It is surprising if not alarming that a new refinery has not been built in this country in the last thirty years. Assuming we all desire true energy independence, we must not delay such projects as this one any longer.

The economic benefit of this project will be felt through out the region. I anticipate that thousands of new jobs along with substantial new tax revenues and tremendous economic growth will result from this project which will benefit all South Dakotans and allow your state to step to the forefront in helping America secure its energy independence. While fossil fuels are not the only answer to energy independence they will remain a vital component for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your time and diligent attention to this matter and I remain

Sincerely yours,

Richard V. Leland, II, P.E.

cc Board of Minerals and Environment
Hyperion