

October 5, 2026

South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Water Rights Program
523 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Supplement to Petition Opposing Water Permit Application No. 9008-3 – Brian Gilbert

Dear Water Management Board:

I previously filed a petition opposing Brian Gilbert's application for two new irrigation wells in Section 28, Township 115 North, Range 65 West in Spink County, South Dakota. I am providing this letter to give the Board more information about my concerns.

I own approximately 157 acres in the SW 1/4 of Section 27, Township 115 North, Range 65 West. My property is directly east of Mr. Gilbert's property, across 377th Avenue. My home is located in the northwest corner of my property.

My husband, Richard Jessen, and I owned this property for many years. Richard died last year, and I now own the property.

My home is served by a domestic well. I depend upon that well for water at my home. I am concerned that the two new high-capacity irrigation wells proposed immediately west of my property could lower the water level and affect my domestic water supply.

My property also has an existing irrigation water right, Water Right No. 5568-3. The records for that water right show a vested irrigation right with a priority date of December 12, 1953. The irrigation well is located in the NW¼SW¼ of Section 27.

Mr. Gilbert is requesting permission for two new wells in the NE 1/4 and SE 1/4 of Section 28 to irrigate 300 acres. The proposed wells would pump a combined total of approximately 3.56 cubic feet of water per second from the same Tulare: Western Spink-Hitchcock Aquifer.

I am especially concerned because the State's old records concerning our water right show that pumping interference between irrigation wells has occurred in this area in the past.

I am not an engineer or water expert. I cannot tell the Board exactly how much these new wells would lower the water level. My concern is that two new large irrigation wells would be located very close to my home, my domestic well, and an irrigation water right that has existed since 1953.

I respectfully ask the Board not to approve the application unless it is satisfied that the proposed wells will not harm my domestic water supply or my existing irrigation water right. If there is not enough information to determine that now, I ask the Board to require additional testing or study before allowing the wells to be operated.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Cathy Jessen
18250 377th Avenue
Tulare, SD 57476