

ANNUAL DISCLOSURE FOR AUTHORITY/BOARD/COMMISSION MEMBER
PURSUANT TO SDCL CHAPTER 3-23

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Name of Member: **Austin Simons**

Name of Board, Authority, or Commission: **Transportation Commission**

The Member shall disclose below any contract in which the Member has an interest or from which the Member derives a direct benefit if the contract is:

- 1) With the state agency to which the Member's board, authority, or commission is attached for reporting or oversight purposes and which contract requires the expenditure of government funds;
- 2) With the state and which contract requires the approval of the Member's board, authority, or commission and the expenditure of government funds; or
- 3) With a political subdivision of the state if the political subdivision approves the contract and:
 - a. Is under the regulatory oversight of the authority, board, or commission, or
 - b. Is under the regulatory oversight of the agency to which the Member's board, authority, or commission is attached.

The Member shall disclose the contract even though no additional authorization is needed from the Member's board, authority, or commission to have an interest or derive a benefit from the contract.

The Member shall also identify every entity in which the Member possesses an ownership interest of five percent or greater if:

- 1) The entity receives grant money from the State, either directly or by a pass-through grant or
- 2) The entity contracts with the State or any political subdivision for services.

1. **Contracts in which you have an interest pursuant to SDCL Chapter 3-23 and which do not violate any other provision of law** – Provide the following for each contract in which you have, or will have, an interest. For further information see SDCL 3-23-2.1 and 3-23.3.1.

Description of the contract	Parties	Description of your interest/role in the contract	Date contract was previously disclosed, if applicable
N/A		The company I own, Thorstenson Trucking, hauls hot oil for Jensen Rock & Sand, which occasionally bids on highway construction contract awards that are considered by the South Dakota Transportation Commission	

Attach additional pages, if necessary.

2. **Contract in which you have a direct benefit pursuant to SDCL Chapter 3-23** – Provide the following for each contract from which you derive, or will derive, a direct benefit. For more information see SDCL 3-23-2, 3-23-2.2, and 3-23-3.1.

Description of the contract	Parties	Description of the direct benefit	Date contract was authorized
N/A			

Attach additional pages, if necessary.

3. **Entities in which you possess an ownership interest of five percent or more that receive grant money from the State, either directly or by a pass-through grant, or that contract with the State or any political subdivision for services** – Provide the following for each such entity. See SDCL 3.23-3.1.

Description of the contract or grant	Party in which you possess the interest	State agency or subdivision
N/A		

Attach additional pages, if necessary.

The Member shall complete a separate authorization request for any contract identified above that requires authorization from the Member's board, authority, or commission in order for the Member to legally derive a direct benefit.

Signature of Member: _____

Date

7/8/26

July 13, 2026

Austin Simons
Chairman, South Dakota Transportation Commission
South Dakota Department of Transportation
700 East Broadway
Pierre, SD 57501

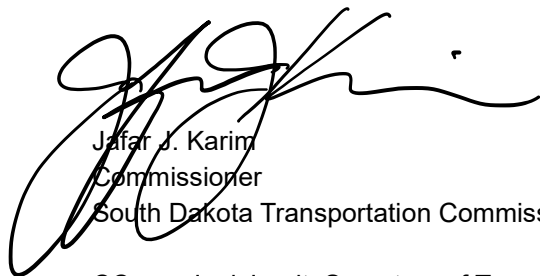
RE: Conflict of Interest Disclosure

This letter is in reference to SDCL § 3-23-1 and § 3-23-2, and is intended to certify that neither I, my spouse, nor any entity in which we have an ownership interest derives any direct benefit from a contract or transaction with the State of South Dakota that specifically relates to the South Dakota Department of Transportation and my involvement as an active SDDOT Commissioner.

I am employed by Black Hills Service Company, LLC ("BHSC"). While my employer is not party to any agreement that would require disclosure under South Dakota law, an electric utility affiliate of BHSC, Black Hills Power, Inc., may enter into agreements from time to time related to crossing South Dakota highways, or transmission right of way agreements. These agreements would occur in the normal course of business and generally do not involve the exchange of financial consideration.

Please be advised that I will continue to review the agenda items for upcoming SDDOT commission meetings and will be forthcoming in disclosing any potential conflict of interest, including any potential conflicts of interest involving my employer, or an affiliate of my employer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Karim', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jafar J. Karim
Commissioner
South Dakota Transportation Commission

CC: Joel Jundt, Secretary of Transportation, SDDOT
Karla Engle, Chief Legal Counsel, SDDOT

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PURSUANT TO SDCL CHAPTER 3-23

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Name of Member: Jafar J. Karim

Name of Board, Authority, or Commission: Transportation Commission

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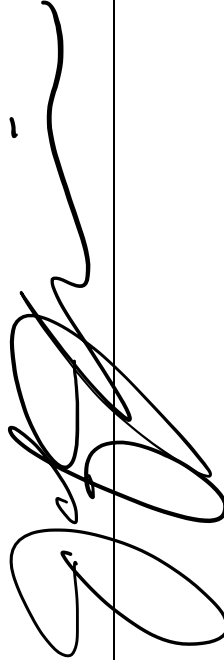
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_____ Date July 13, 2026