

To South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

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MAR 21 2022

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Please enter this on public docket HP 22-001 in opposition Summit Carbon Solutions proposed carbon dioxide pipeline.

Dear Commissioners:

I am a farmer and landowner near Mellette, S. Dak. In northern Spink County where I manage a 90 head cow-calf operation and raise corn, soybeans, wheat, and alfalfa. On July 30, 2021, I was notified by mail that a carbon dioxide pipeline would be cutting through my farm near my farm, my home, and my cattle lots. Prior to this, no one had heard anything about this pipeline, and within days surveyors started showing up to enter our property. We refused them access to our land, but that didn't stop them, as we continually caught them coming back numerous times last fall. Summit Carbon Solutions does not deal in good faith, is not honest or transparent, and should not be granted a permit for this pipeline for several reasons.

Summit Carbon Solutions is a private, for profit entity, therefore, this project is not in the public interest. Their only motivation in pushing this boondoggle on we landowners is greed. Why should a private individual and his investors be allowed to scar my land permanently so he can make more money at my expense and get a government subsidy on top of it. This is wrong! You argue that you have nothing to do whether eminent domain is used on landowners to force this project through, but by granting a permit to go ahead with the pipeline, you are greenlighting the use of eminent domain for private gain. The only way to prove that eminent domain won't be used is for you to deny the permit. You also argue that you have an obligation to Summit and have sworn an oath to give them a fair hearing. I believe you should be more concerned about your constituents that elected you instead of an out of state entity that only wants to use us as a dumping ground. For example, on October 26, 2021, I discovered that your entire staff held a private meeting with officials from Summit in your office in Pierre at 8:00 a.m. yet upon request by me, your staff refused to meet with some of us landowners and hear our concerns. In January of this year, Summit officials were allowed to appear before the Senate Commerce Committee in the legislature with a PUC commissioner present without public notice to lobby for their pipeline, yet no opposing landowners were given the same opportunity. Additionally, why is Summit allowed to apply for a permit without a permanent established route? The entire permitting process should be delayed until a permanent route is presented. I understand Summit has asked you to approve a permit for a preferred route and an alternate route. Because there is so much landowner opposition to this pipeline, Summit can't get enough support for their preferred route, so they are grasping at straws trying to find anyone who will accept them, and it's not working.

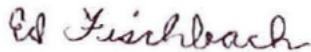
This proposed CO2 pipeline is a safety risk to anyone in its vicinity. In the event of a leak, a human being or animal would be unconscious within minutes. This is a dangerous gas that has been ruled as hazardous by the federal government and the state of Iowa. That is another reason to deny the permit. I have rural water pipelines, a natural gas pipeline, and WAPA power line poles I farm around on my property, and I accept those inconveniences because they are a benefit to the general public, they don't risk the safety of my family or livestock, and they are public non-profit entities unlike Summit Carbon

Solutions. This CO2 pipeline would be placed four feet underground at a constant temperature of 120 degrees at around 2200 psi of pressure. How can that possibly be good for any land that it crosses?

The issues before you are simple when considering whether or not to grant a permit: property rights, greed, and transparency. Summit Carbon Solutions fails all three. Summit has constantly refused to disclose an affected landowner list of names in all states crossed by their proposal. They are attempting to rush approval of this project as quickly as they can before landowners organize opposition. They are currently pressuring and intimidating landowners into signing easements to try to show support for the pipeline, but most are resisting their efforts. Ask yourself why would they be offering money to landowners for easements before they even have permitted approval for their project? Do they know something the rest of us don't know? If I ran my farming operation in this manner, I would have been out of business long ago.

In my area, I can assure you that the opposition to this CO2 pipeline is overwhelming, but landowners are concerned and suspicious about the process set up for the permitting process. There is a lot of dark money helping Summit force this pipeline through. I ask that you resist the pressure and intimidation being used to approve this pipeline. I hope you will remember your obligation to protect your own citizens and landowners from this attack on our well being and deny a permit to Summit Carbon Solutions for their proposed carbon dioxide pipeline.

Sincerely,



Ed Fischbach



Mellette, South Dakota 57461

