

Michael Runge



Ree Heights, SD 57371

Dear Members of the PUC:

I am submitting this letter to encourage you to keep the date for the HP22-001 docket (Summit Carbon Solutions) in September 2023.

According to SCS's webpage, SCS and ethanol stakeholders want the hearing to be earlier in 2023 because a delay "will cause significant harm to both the ethanol and agricultural industries." Although I can agree with their logic to the ethanol industry, I would like to argue their position on the ag industry as a whole.

Because the date is currently set at September, all acres dedicated to production are already planned for use. Seed and fertilizer have probably already been purchased for farmable acres. This is a time when many livestock producers are calving and trying to get ready for summer grazing which creates a undo hardship to attend the hearing. The September hearing date helps producers plan their production goals, their financing needs, and their marketing; any earlier hearing date is detrimental to ag producers.

Land is the biggest cost in production ag, regardless if it's owned or rented land. Producers should have the right to plan their production year without worrying about an undue burden from SCS or a reversal from the SD PUC. I am asking you to please keep the September hearing date.

Sincerely,


Michael Runge