

From: MK Stangeland Jr [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:58 AM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Public Comment on Docket # HP22-001 - Summit Carbon Solutions CO2 Pipeline

MK Stangeland Jr.
[REDACTED]
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capital Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
Attention: Docket # **HP22-001**

To the Members of the South Dakota PUC,

I write you regarding Docket # **PH22-001**, which concerns the Summit Carbon Solutions CO2 Pipeline. As a concerned citizen of South Dakota, an active voter, and a duly elected Republican Party Precinct Committeeman, I must with all possible emphasis advocate in full **against** the Summit Carbon Solutions CO2 Pipeline.

First, the very idea of a pipeline to store carbon dioxide in the ground is utterly absurd. How is it that carbon dioxide itself has been classified as a harmful and dangerous substance? Any individual with even a passing knowledge of high school science could tell you that carbon dioxide is a fully natural substance that is essential for the same circle of life that has existed for as long as life has existed on Earth. Plants absorb carbon dioxide, and expel the very air we rely on to breath as part of the natural process of photosynthesis.

The entire basis for the Summit Carbon Solutions CO2 Pipeline is built on an environmentalist religion masquerading as bad science. None of the predicted scenarios of disaster surrounding CO2 have come to pass even as their predicted time of arrival have come and gone without incident. Waters have not been demonstrated to have risen, weather has not been shown to have gotten worse. Countless are the claims supposedly justifying the purpose of the CO2 Pipeline in the first place but have, to the contrary, been proven wrong.

Even if carbon dioxide were genuinely a concern, why would the answer be to hide it underground for it to linger indefinitely, hiding the problem away like sweeping dirt under a carpet? Can anyone say with any amount of certainty just how much CO2 needs to be stored underground in man-made tanks in order to solve the supposed problem? Or is the answer indeterminate, conveniently providing Summit Carbon Solutions with an excuse to build pipelines and underground storage tanks indefinitely so long as there is government money to be made from such projects?

If the end goal truly were to address CO2 as a hazardous substance, I would think that the true answer would be to utilize the very same tool that has been used by nature itself since before the dawn of history, a tool that has yet to be surpassed by any means conceived by man. Why, I ask, would it not be more beneficial to instead invest in plants? Rather than storing carbon

dioxide in the ground where it remains indefinitely, plants are naturally designed to consume carbon dioxide, converting it into a product that is essential for human life itself.

The unfortunate fact of the matter is that the very concept of a carbon pipeline is a scam. A project such as the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline would not exist without federal money. Such a project does not benefit anyone other than those who are paid by the government to build it. The carbon pipeline would improve the life of nobody, it only brings misery and negative impact.

Frankly, I question how the carbon pipeline can be considered a 'utility' at all. Consider, by comparison, any other utility that demonstrably improves peoples lives, some to the point that it would be impossible to imagine modern civilization without them. Roads, which allow for quick and easy transport. Water for safe drinking and indoor plumbing. Electricity for countless purposes. All of them benefits that are easy to point to, easy to understand, and it would be easy to imagine how life would be different and more difficult if they were missing.

By comparison, what benefit as a utility would the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline provide? If the carbon dioxide pipeline is built, what similar benefit will Summit Carbon Solutions be able to point to that is easy to understand and will leave us imagining how much more difficult our lives would be if it did not exist the way that it does today?

All of this is without getting into the more glaring issue of Summit Carbon Solutions trying to force the project to happen through the malicious use of eminent domain. Eminent domain is always an unfortunate matter, but it becomes far worse when wielded for personal gain to the benefit of a private entity such as Summit Carbon Solutions.

To summarize, there is no reason for the Summit Carbon Solutions CO2 pipeline to be built. It is based on an absurd premise, does not actually address the problem it supposedly deals with, does not serve the public good, and is arguably not even a utility in the first place.

Hence, I request that the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission would please reject the Summit Carbon Solutions carbon dioxide pipeline project, Docket # **PH22-001**, and prevent its implementation so far as it is within the SDPUC's power to do so.

Thank you very much for your time, and moreso for your consideration of my words on this matter.

Sincerely,

MK Stangeland, Jr.