

Attachment No. 2

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IOWA VIEW | Opinion *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

Opinion: We've done the research, and we oppose the proposed CO2 pipelines

There are better opportunities for Iowa to reduce greenhouse gas emissions than through the construction of carbon dioxide pipelines.

Matt Liebman, Elizabeth Garst and Neil Hamilton Guest columnists

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Key Points

Matt Liebman is professor emeritus of agronomy at Iowa State University.

Elizabeth Garst is a conservation farmland owner.

Neil Hamilton is professor emeritus of agricultural law at Drake University and a Dallas County soil and water commissioner.

Support for this essay is provided by 14 other Iowans listed at the end of the piece.

We are a group of concerned Iowans, farmland owners, academics, non-profit leaders, and environmental advocates who have urged the Iowa Utilities Board to reject permit applications for carbon dioxide pipelines that would run across Iowa. We recognize that climate change is driven by emissions of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, and we support clean, safe, sustainable, and locally controlled and locally owned energy. But we can do better than the proposed pipelines. Science indicates that they are poor investments and unlikely to have a meaningful effect on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We filed a letter on July 29, 2022, with the Iowa Utilities Board and laid out four science-based objections to the projects proposed by Summit Carbon Solutions, Navigator CO2 Ventures, and Archer Daniels Midland partnered with Wolf Carbon Solutions. Our objections are based on publicly funded scientific and engineering studies; links to these studies can be found in our letter to the board.

Soil degradation, reduced crop yields. Iowa State University scientists recently published a study that examined crop yields in areas of fields affected by underground oil pipeline construction. They found that subsoil compaction reduced corn yields by 15% and

soybean yields by 25% for at least several years after pipeline completion. Farmers are aware of these effects and are reluctant to allow degradation of their land by pipeline construction. To date, at least 40 county boards of supervisors in Iowa have filed objections to the proposed pipelines.

Another View: CO2 pipeline technology is safe and beneficial

Minor reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Capturing carbon dioxide generated during the process of fermentation at ethanol plants and then transporting it by pipelines through Iowa and other states and storing it underground would have trivial effects on our nation's carbon dioxide emissions. Carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S. in 2020 were 110 times greater than the amount that might be captured at all our nation's ethanol plants under the most favorable projections.

Carbon dioxide emitted from tailpipes would greatly exceed what pipelines would transport. The use of ethanol in our cars contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, which exacerbate our ever-increasing climate crisis. Tailpipe emissions from U.S. vehicles in 2020 using gasoline blended with 10% ethanol (E10) were almost 25 times greater than the 43 million metric tons of carbon dioxide that could potentially be captured at all the nation's ethanol plants. Because vehicles using ethanol rather than regular gasoline typically get 4% to 5% fewer miles per gallon of fuel consumed, due to the lower energy content of ethanol, carbon dioxide emissions per mile traveled are as high or higher for ethanol blends as for pure gasoline.

Corruption of the ideal of private sacrifice for public good. The power of eminent domain, which allows private land to be condemned, is granted to governments carefully and must be executed carefully. This process should be used only for projects serving substantial public interest. Given the link between soil health, farm productivity, and forest and grassland integrity, a very large benefit to the public should accrue to offset the damage incurred from building private carbon dioxide pipelines through the fields and timber of hundreds of Iowa citizens. Because the carbon dioxide transported by pipelines from ethanol plants for underground storage would hardly dent U.S. greenhouse gas emissions while incurring substantial damage to private land, we believe insufficient public benefit would accrue from allowing private pipeline projects to proceed using eminent domain.

There are better opportunities for Iowa to reduce greenhouse gas emissions than through the construction of carbon dioxide pipelines. We ask that concerned citizens speak out against the proposed pipelines and file their objections with the IUB.

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