

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF SCS CARBON TRANSPORT LLC FOR
A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A CARBON
DIOXIDE PIPELINE.

HP24-001

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

CHET T. EDINGER, DAVISON COUNTY, SD

ON BEHALF OF

SUMMIT CARBON SOLUTIONS, LLC

EXHIBIT #

December 13, 2024

1 **Q. Please state your name and business address for the record.**

2 A. My name is Chet T. Edinger. My address is 1524 Lakeview Lane, Mitchell, SD 57301.

3 **Q. What is your occupation?**

4 A. I am a Davison County farmer and landowner.

5 **Q. Please briefly describe your operation.**

6 A. The operating entity of our farm is Edinger Brothers Partnership. My brother, Charlie
7 Edinger, and I are 50/50 owners in the farm partnership organized in 1998. We grew up on the
8 farm our parents, Wayne and Janet, built and operated in White Lake, SD, in 1961. We raise
9 wheat, corn, soybeans, and sunflowers, using mostly regenerative practices.

10 **Q. Please describe your affiliation with Summit, POET, and High Plains Processors?**

11 A. Our farm sells approximately 80% of the corn we raise to the POET ethanol plant located
12 in Mitchell, SD. My brother is an investor in POET and High Plains Processors. I am an
13 investor in High Plains Processors in Mitchell, SD.

14 **Q. What is the basis for your testimony?**

15 A. The carbon pipeline is the first link in the chain to Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). The
16 SAF market represents a new market for our ethanol and our corn. These new markets come
17 along only once a generation.

18 **Q. Why is the Summit project necessary for you/your neighbors/South
19 Dakota/Ethanol?**

20 A. By sequestering the carbon emissions from the ethanol plants in South Dakota, the
21 ethanol produced will qualify for SAF under the GREET models. This one practice alone is all
22 that is required to lower the CI score enough to open the SAF market to our ethanol. The

1 pipeline is the safest way to transport carbon to North Dakota where it can be stored indefinitely.
2 Without the pipeline, there is not a way to lower the CI score enough to make SAF.

3 **Q. What does Summit mean to you in terms of opportunities to grow your operation?**

4 A. The corn market is crucial nationwide – it provides food, feed, and fuel. Currently, corn
5 prices are below the cost of production for most farmers in South Dakota. Our farm also sells
6 corn below our cost. Demand for ethanol is declining, while the yields for corn are increasing.
7 The pipeline will sustain the demand for our corn, and it will stabilize the income for our farm.

8 **Q. What context is missing from the concerns stated by others?**

9 A. Firstly, the issue of eminent domain has been misunderstood and used negatively in
10 political ads. South Dakota has always been pro-landowner, and in my experience, has weighed
11 landowner rights judiciously with common good. Secondly, those not associated with agriculture
12 do not realize the demand for ethanol is declining. Without a new market, South Dakota will
13 soon have a glut of ethanol to sell. Therefore, corn prices will stay below the cost of production
14 and, after a period of years, will erode the equity of our farms. Not only will that result in the
15 decline of current farming operations, but there will also be no incentives for potential young
16 farmers to enter the business.

17 **Q. What fears do you have if the project is not completed?**

18 A. In addition to lost equity and lack of opportunity in the farm sector, I feel that South
19 Dakota will become an island where other states will have the opportunity to produce SAF by
20 installing a pipeline that bypasses South Dakota. Our ethanol industry will be handcuffed to
21 trying to be the lowest cost producer, which is not good for their employees or the farmer. South
22 Dakota will also miss out on the GEVO plant in Lake Preston, which removes another huge
23 project from our state, including jobs and another buyer of our corn.

1 **Q. Has your county acted against the project?**

2 A. No. My county has an ethanol plant and is now building a soybean crush plant. I
3 attended all the planning and zoning meetings for both plants and spoke out in favor of them.
4 When the pipeline is on the agenda for my county, I will attend and speak in favor of the
5 pipeline.

6 **Q. How do you feel about that? How do you feel about other counties which have tried
7 to stop the project?**

8 A. The issue with county leadership is nobody wants the job. Some counties lack leadership
9 that sees both sides of an issue objectively and tends to bend to the will of the noisy minority.
10 Good leadership sees the potential and the pitfalls of any project and votes for what is the best
11 for everyone in the county, not just a few.

12 **Q. Do you have safety concerns about the Summit project?**

13 A. Our farm uses Anhydrous Ammonia as the main fertilizer for our corn and sunflowers.
14 Through that experience, I have found proper training is critical for the safety of everyone. My
15 concern is that everyone near the pipeline has adequate training in what to do in the event of an
16 accident.

17 **Q. Is your ground part of the Summit project?**

18 A. No. I own land just a few miles from the POET Mitchell ethanol plant, but the pipeline is
19 not proposed to travel across that land.

20 **Q. How was your easement experience? Were you fairly treated and compensated?**

21 A. I have never had issues with any of the easements on the land that I own. I was always
22 treated with respect, and it never bothered me or our farming practices.

23 **Q. Does your ground currently have other easements?**

1 A. I have multiple easements on land I own including railroad easements, highway
2 easements, utility easements, and Fish and Wildlife easements.

3 **Q. What has been your overall experience with easements, both Summit and others?**

4 A. I have always had a positive experience with easements, and I understand that, for the
5 betterment of everyone up and down the line, it is part of having a better community in which to
6 live and prosper. My only issue in the past is with the Fish and Wildlife easement. I wish it were
7 for the shorter term, as it restricts our ability to farm that land.

8 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

9 A. Yes.

10

11 Dated this 9th day of November, 2024.

12

13

14 /s/ Chet Edinger

15 Chet Edinger