

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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

HP24-001

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF**

**CLAYTON MINOR, LAKE 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. Clayton Minor, 22735 466h Ave, Rutland, SD 57057

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

4 A. I am a Lake County farmer.

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

6 A. I have a Bachelor's Degree from South Dakota State University and a Master's Degree  
7 from the University of Sioux Falls. I started farming in 2001. After graduation from college, I  
8 worked for 4 different companies before moving my wife and children to our family farm, I grew  
9 up on, to farm full time. Our primary crops are corn and soybeans. We also help provide custom  
10 work to neighbors.

11 **Q. Please describe your affiliation with Dakota Ethanol and LACP.**

12 A. Regarding my relationship with the ethanol industry, I sell corn to Dakota Ethanol each  
13 growing year and have shares in LACP.

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

15 A. The pipeline that Summit is proposing is a great opportunity for family farms and rural  
16 communities. We need to ensure new agricultural products and new technologies to keep our  
17 products we produce competitive.

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

20 A. Ethanol production from corn is one the most sustainable industries I have seen.  
21 Providing local jobs, clean energy, and supporting agriculture in both row crop product and  
22 livestock production. This industry is crucial for my generation to keep farms like ours viable.

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

1 A. Opportunities such as Summit’s pipeline, create revenue for landowners and local tax  
2 money for our community. We are pleased to welcome this project on our family’s land and help  
3 to bring new technologies that support the farm community.

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

5 A. There are current misconceptions about the project that are based on fear and not from  
6 facts. There are always pros and cons to any new business concept or idea, but the pros vastly  
7 outweigh the cons for the CO2 pipeline.

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

9 A. If the project is not completed, we will miss out on future businesses that will go across  
10 the border to other states which will take needed funding for roads, schools, and property  
11 owners. Our local ethanol plants will not stay competitive and close their doors. Ethanol  
12 provides an incredible local impact for corn demand and basis which will severely damage our  
13 local community and our ability to compete as farmers.

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

15 A. The conversations I have had about the project with friends and family has been very  
16 supportive of the project and understand the need. The people who do not want the pipeline are  
17 sharing fears of rumors that are not true. The impractical political ideology of some will burden  
18 the reality of a great new opportunity for others.

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

21 A. We will not all agree, but we should seek facts over falsehoods. The research I’ve done  
22 and meetings I’ve had directly with Summit employees allows me to make an educated and  
23 rational decision based on facts.

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

2 A. No.

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

4 A. Yes.

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

6 A. The team from Summit was very good at listening and answering the hard questions we  
7 presented.

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

9 A. Yes.

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

11 A. Fine.

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

13 A. Yes.

14

15 Dated this 14th day of October, 2024.

16

17     /s/ Clayton Minor    

18 Clayton Minor