

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

CRAIG WEBER, KINGSBURY COUNTY, SD

ON BEHALF OF

SUMMIT CARBON SOLUTIONS, LLC

EXHIBIT #

January 31 , 2024

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

2 A. Craig Weber, Weber Ag LLC, 45202 205th St, Arlington, SD 57212

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

4 A. I am a Kingsbury County farmer for the past 33 years.

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

6 A. I have a BS degree in agriculture majoring in animal science with a minor in Ag Business
7 from South Dakota State University. Our operation is primarily corn and soybean production
8 with some cow/calf and hay production. We operate around 3400 acres producing three to four
9 hundred thousand bushels of corn a year. The vast majority of this corn production goes to
10 ethanol.

11 **Q. Please describe your affiliation with Summit, Glacial Lakes Energy, and Redfield
12 Energy.**

13 A. We own stock in three different ethanol plants including Glacial Lakes Energy and
14 Redfield Energy. A large percentage of our production is marketed to Valero at Aurora.

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

16 A. I seek to see agriculture/summit/ethanol/SAF succeed and to testify that the Summit
17 project is great for farmers, ethanol plants and South Dakota in general.

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

19 A. The Carbon pipeline is extremely important for us as corn producers because it will
20 provide the path forward to increase corn demand through renewable fuels. Plants that are not
21 able to sequester Carbon will be at a competitive disadvantage. The world corn supply is out
22 pacing demand and corn prices are again below the cost of production. I'm not concerned who
23 will make money on the carbon sequestration. The fact that the sequestration will increase

1 ethanol and sustainable aviation fuel means that every corn farmer will benefit by the corn
2 supply being utilized and corn production being profitable.

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

4 A. Our farm produces 300,000 to 400,000 bushels of corn a year, and as yields continue to
5 increase we need to increase corn demand, and it is better to have the plants in South Dakota as
6 opposed to having to ship it out of state to plants sitting on the geology that allows for
7 sequestration. On a more personal note the proposed GEVO SAF plant east of Lake Preston
8 would be a 12 mile haul as opposed to 32 miles to Valero near Aurora. This new plant would
9 improve the corn basis in the state. If other states are on a carbon pipeline and South Dakota
10 plants are not, we would see corn basis widen giving South Dakota corn farmers' lower prices.
11 Existing ethanol plants would be at a competitive disadvantage and would be the first to shutter
12 when ethanol margins are poor. South Dakota corn would be shipped out of state to be utilized.

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

14 A. When ethanol, SAF, or soybean crush plants are built, their selected plant sites must
15 check many logistical boxes in order to qualify as a viable option. These include water,
16 electricity, roads, natural gas and rail. The proximity of these will determine if the site is viable
17 for success. When you have these met you draw a circle on the map that this area is viable site.
18 The carbon pipeline has been added to this list as a must have for future ethanol and SAF sites.
19 Without it in South Dakota there will be no circles made on a map of viable locations. These
20 plants will be made in states that have the pipeline or the geology underneath for sequestration.

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

22 A. Not only will South Dakota not have any future ethanol plants built, but the existing
23 plants will be at great risk. Our existing plants would be the first to shutter when margins are

1 tight and most likely close completely over time. We own stock in three ethanol plants, two of
2 which are in South Dakota. If the pipeline were to not be built, I would be selling my stock in
3 South Dakota ethanol plants and purchasing stock in out of state plants that would have carbon
4 capture.

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

6 A. No.

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

9 A. Completely do not understand why people would get in the way of private equity
10 building infrastructure that helps the state economically and is particularly advantages to the
11 lucky landowners that the pipeline would run through.

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

13 A. Not at all. Carbon Dioxide is not explosive, and, if a leak were to occur, there would be
14 no contamination to the soil. The CO₂ would quickly dissipate into the atmosphere. Most
15 infrastructure has risk. Roads, rail, electricity, natural gas, and oil pipelines all pose some risk.
16 A carbon pipeline would certainly be the least risky of this group.

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

18 A. No. Our property is not part of the proposed project but I have expressed interest to
19 company representatives if they were looking for a route north of Arlington. The payments for
20 the easement are generous, and you get to continue to farm over the line when completed. It
21 might be a possible ethanol plant site in the future.

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

1 A. Yes. We have many rural water, electric, telephone, and sewer pipe easements on
2 property.

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

4 A. I have never been compensated for an easement like Summit is compensating
5 landowners.

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

7 A. Yes.

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9 Dated this 31st day of January 2025.

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11 */s/ Craig Weber*

12 Craig Weber

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