

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**

**JERRY RUBENDALL, SANBORN 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 Jerry Rubendall. My address is 1413 E 4th, Mitchell, SD 57301.

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

4 A. I am a third-generation farmer and rancher in Sanborn County, South Dakota. I was also  
5 on the South Dakota Corn Council for 12 years and was a board member for the South Dakota  
6 Cattlemen's Association for 10 years.

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

8 A. I farm and rent my ground for corn, soybeans, and hay. I also have a large cow/calf  
9 operation.

10 **Q. Please describe your affiliation with Summit, POET, SD Corn Council, and other**  
11 **ethanol plants?**

12 A. When I was on the SD Corn Council, there was only one ethanol plant operating in South  
13 Dakota at that time. While serving on the Board, I could see that the ethanol industry would be  
14 very good for corn growers and South Dakota. It gave me the idea to explore starting an ethanol  
15 plant in the Mitchell area. So, I worked for 5+ years behind the scenes to investigate and work  
16 on the plans to get a plant built. One of the biggest issues was water quality and getting water to  
17 the plant location. There were 8 large corn growers on board with the idea. We originally  
18 planned to call the plant Corn Palace Ethanol.

19 Once things were starting to come together, we worked with POET and Jeff Broin to get  
20 the plant permitted, financed, and built in Loomis. To get the plant financed, we sold stock to the  
21 local farmers and ranchers. We raised all of the stock needed for the entire plant in one night at  
22 the Holiday Inn in Mitchell. I have held stock with POET, sold corn to POET, rented land to  
23 farmers who sell to POET, and have been interested in their success ever since.

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

2 A. My motive for testifying is that, since I had a large part in starting the plant, I want to see  
3 it thrive and succeed long term. Having the ethanol plant here is important to me. I have seen  
4 the jobs the plant has brought to the area and the value it has added for corn and land values in  
5 our community.

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

8 A. For the plant to continue to be successful long term, there have to be markets for the  
9 products as well as a way to keep corn prices high. The carbon pipeline will do both by adding  
10 value to the corn and opening up new markets. It will also open up an opportunity for  
11 sustainable aviation fuel to come to South Dakota, something that cannot happen without the  
12 pipeline. I think SAF will increase demand further and help with corn prices.

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

14 A. The carbon pipeline means that we will always have an excellent local market for the  
15 product we produce. It gives owners and renters a continued good market for our corn and helps  
16 us maintain our current way of life. Also, the distiller grain produced from the plant for the  
17 livestock industry is tremendous and will not be available if the plant cannot survive long term.

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

19 A. From what I can tell, there are a lot of the opposers who are nowhere near the pipeline  
20 route. They talk about safety and how it is going to kill everyone, yet that has never happened  
21 before in the 50 years CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines have operated. They fail to mention any of the benefits the  
22 projects bring, which include significant dollars to schools and first responders. Some of the  
23 opposition groups appear to be against everything that would help move South Dakota forward.

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

2 A. I think we will lose out on a value-added market for corn and fuel. In the long term, I  
3 think we could lose our local ethanol plant, which would result in lower corn prices and land  
4 values. Sustainable aviation fuel will never come to the state if the CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline is not built. It  
5 will put South Dakota at a competitive disadvantage in a big way if there are CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines in  
6 Nebraska and Iowa and they are never built in South Dakota.

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

8 A. Yes. Sanborn County, where I ranch and farm, passed a pipeline ordinance which has a  
9 setback in it.

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

12 A. I do not approve of counties doing that. I think they are trying to kill the project more  
13 than anything else. I see no reason for the ordinances as the state and federal governments  
14 regulate where pipelines need to go. If the counties can change the rules at any time in the  
15 process to whatever rules they want, no one will want to invest in doing any linear infrastructure  
16 projects in South Dakota ever again.

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

18 A. No. I have met with Summit personnel many times, and we have talked about safety.  
19 My understanding is that no one has ever been seriously injured or killed in the United States  
20 from a carbon pipeline incident.

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

22 A. No. I wish the pipeline was running through my ground. However, I do own ground  
23 immediately adjacent to the pipeline route and rent ground to people who are affected.

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

2 A. This question is not applicable as far as easements are concerned, but my experience with  
3 Summit has been positive. They have been willing to answer and address all of my questions  
4 and concerns.

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

6 A. Yes. We have grassland easements and telecom.

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

8 A. Generally, I have had good experiences with easements that I have been associated with  
9 as long as the companies do what they say they are going to do, which I believe Summit will  
10 based on my interactions with them.

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

12 A. Yes.

13

14 Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of November, 2024.

15

16

17 /s/ Jerry Rubendall

18 Jerry Rubendall