

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**

**JAMES SHEEHAN, AKA JIM SHEEHAN, HUGHES & SULLY COUNTIES, 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 James E. Sheehan, a/k/a Jim Sheehan, of JES Farms Partnership, 19395  
3 288th Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501.

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

5 A. I am a Hughes and Stanley County farmer and rancher in the partnership. I rent out my  
6 320 acres to my father's partnership. The partnership is comprised of Harvey, Andrea, and me.  
7 My parents own JES Farms, which the partnership rents from.

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

9 A. My operation is made up of approximately 16,800 acres and 85 center pivots, irrigated  
10 from the Missouri River through 13 miles of overland canal and 52 miles of underground pipe. I  
11 primarily run a rotation of corn and soybean commercial agriculture. I graduated from Lake  
12 Forest College of Illinois with two Bachelors of Arts degrees – history and political science. I  
13 have been the farm manager of JES Farms Partnership since 2015, and I grew up on JES Farms.  
14 I raise seven children with my wife, Wrynn Sheehan. We have run many large commercial  
15 cow/calf herds and fed many large herds over the decades in South Dakota. We have sold corn  
16 to feedlots such as Onida Feedyard and Fall River Feedlot, and we sell corn primarily to  
17 Ringneck Energy in Onida, South Dakota. We grow about 2 million bushels of corn a year,  
18 depending on our rotation and other considerations.

19 **Q. Please describe your affiliation with Summit and Ringneck Energy.**

20 A. I sell corn to, am on the board of, and own stock in Ringneck Energy in Onida, South  
21 Dakota.

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

1 A. I am proud that the people of South Dakota have the opportunity to further develop our  
2 great nation. This opportunity includes the great need for infrastructure development which has  
3 a dramatic impact on commodities that our local farmers, including my family, produce. It is my  
4 understanding that Summit is helping the economy by meeting the growing demand for CO2  
5 pipelines to transport carbon safely and productively for sequestration with value-added results  
6 through diverse applications that many market participants can benefit from. South Dakota  
7 should not be left behind in the race to US energy independence. South Dakota can be a harbor  
8 for advanced energy development, and Summit should be on that team. I believe in achieving  
9 American energy independence and thriving farming communities, so I support advanced  
10 pipelines such as Summit. We have a role in achieving this energy independence, and South  
11 Dakota landowners should support these efforts. Finally, I hope my children are left a robust  
12 agricultural economy to excite them enough to stick around for and maybe raise their family out  
13 here to keep it going.

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

16 A. This project is necessary to see an increase in the demand for corn and other row crop  
17 commodities for planted acres. Farmers need Ringneck Energy and other ethanol plants to  
18 thrive, as it is a marketing anchor for the local grain demand for our producers. The impact  
19 ethanol has had on agriculture is hard to overstate. It is easy to overlook as we grow up  
20 surrounded by its effect. We came to the frontier to build the nation the best way we each know  
21 how to.

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

1 A. We have no easements with Summit, and we are not on the proposed route. I am not sure  
2 if my area was proposed, but I understand Onida cannot locally store carbon underground  
3 because of the water table. The effects of the pipeline will bring better marketing opportunities  
4 for our area farmers', including my family, grain production.

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

6 A.

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

8 A. My fear is that US ethanol will struggle without significant infrastructure projects and  
9 innovation in order to deliver competitive energy to the international market.

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

11 A. I am not aware if my county has acted against the project. I believe there is a lot of  
12 support in my area.

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

15 A. I believe there has been a lot of misinformation that contributed to the poor actions of  
16 some county leaders.

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

18 A. I do not have any safety concerns or concerns in general about the Summit project.

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

20 A. My ground is not part of the Summit project other than the production of corn to sell to  
21 the ethanol plants.

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

1 A. I do not have any easements with Summit, so I cannot comment on my easement  
2 experience with them.

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

4 A. Yes. My land has an easement with Mid-Dakota Rural Water Systems to run water  
5 pipeline.

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

7 A. Each easement requires its own scrutinization. I understand that certain easements,  
8 especially Summit, can be a necessity for the public and mutual benefit. Cooperation,  
9 communication, and transparency are keys to a successful relationship, optimally never  
10 devaluing a landowner's property while serving the public interest.

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

12 A. Yes.

13

14 Dated this 3rd day of November, 2024.

15

16 /s/ Jim Sheehan

17 Jim Sheehan