

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**

**KIRK YACKLEY, SULLY 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 Kirk Yackley. My address is P.O. Box 262, Onida, SD 57564.

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

4 A. I am a Sully County farmer. I have a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering and  
5 have been involved in production agriculture for over 40 years.

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

7 A. My family and I grow corn. We rely on selling that corn to the ethanol industry and local  
8 elevators.

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

10 A. My family and I sell corn to Ringneck Energy. My wife and I both own stock in  
11 Ringneck Energy, and our land will be directly affected by the CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline.

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

13 A. There is no question what the ethanol industry has done for the rural ag, our state, and our  
14 local economies. The ethanol industry uses huge amounts of corn. The Summit project will help  
15 keep the ethanol industry strong and competitive in markets all across our country and overseas  
16 as well. This will help our ag communities in a number of ways, such as corn prices, taxable  
17 property, jobs, etc.

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

20 A. As I stated above, the Summit project will help the ethanol industry, which already uses a  
21 huge amount of corn. This will help South Dakota and our ethanol plants stay competitive in the  
22 ethanol market, which will only, in turn, help my family and neighboring farmers with corn  
23 prices, etc.

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

2 A. The demand that ethanol has a low carbon intensity (CI) score has underscored the  
3 opportunity that the Summit project brings to the table for our ag communities. This, along with  
4 no-till farming, will increase the demand for the ethanol produced by plants that are able to be  
5 connected to the pipeline. This will keep the corn prices strong (or at least stable) in my  
6 community so that my son and his family will still be farming on our family farm years from  
7 now.

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

9 A. I believe those who show concern are missing out on the facts presented by the project  
10 because they are either not willing to listen to them or just not willing to accept what this project  
11 can do for our state and our economy.

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

13 A. I fear that, if the project is not completed, our local ethanol industry will not be able to  
14 compete in the national ethanol industry because of the CI restrictions put in place. Therefore,  
15 corn prices would drop dramatically, or we would even be forced to travel farther to ethanol  
16 plants outside the state to sell our corn to the industry.

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

18 A. I have not been made aware if Sully County has acted against the project. As far as I  
19 know, there is a general acceptance of the project in my area.

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

22 A. I feel generally satisfied with Sully County not acting against the project and hope they  
23 continue to support the project. As for the other counties which have tried to stop the project,

1 why? Do you not want our state and local economies to keep succeeding? Do you wish for your  
2 local farmers to not be successful with their corn sales?

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

4 A. I have no safety concerns about the Summit project.

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

6 A. My ground is part of the Summit project.

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

8 A. We were approached for surveying and a possible easement. Negotiations between  
9 Summit and us were respectful and professional. We asked for some changes, and we were able  
10 to reach an agreement that both parties were comfortable with. Lawyers and insurance  
11 professionals were consulted to answer questions that arose.

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

13 A. My ground does have other easements.

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

15 A. As stated above, our easement experience with Summit and with others has been  
16 satisfactory. Without some of those easements, the modern way of life and improvement of such  
17 is not possible.

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

19 A. Yes.

20

21 Dated this 3rd day of November, 2024.

22

23 /s/ Kirk Yackley

1 Kirk Yackley