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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

FROM: Donald Mendel  
17909 406 Ave, Doland, SD 57436  
[dlmendel@nvc.net](mailto:dlmendel@nvc.net)  
605-460-0647

TO: SD Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol Ave, Pierre, SD 57501

SUBJECT: HP24-001

Date: January 18, 2025

This letter is in support of permit approval for Summit Carbon Solutions request for pipeline, HP24-001. I attended the PUC public input meeting held at Redfield on January 17. I did not present any public testimony at that meeting, but am writing you now instead. In my view, the preponderance of negative pipeline testimony presented at the Redfield meeting **does not** represent the feeling of the “silent majority” of my fellow Spink County residents. The silent majority understands the factual reality that pipelines are the safest, most efficient, and most non-intrusive methods to transport product. Once the pipeline is in place, it literally becomes “out of sight, out of mind”. Some of the emotional testimony presented at Redfield calling for “protecting our private property” and “preserving the quality of life for our children” are worthy aspirations, but in reality not germane to the issue at hand.

We all understand that good governance involves doing the greatest good for the greatest number. Corn is the primary cash crop of eastern South Dakota. Ethanol plants are the major market for SD corn. Low-carbon ethanol is being rewarded with added value. If and when this

added value is realized, the added value for the corn and ethanol trickles down from the corn producer to impact the entire state's economy. A rising tide raises all ships, so ironically the anti-pipeline folks will also benefit from the pipeline which they vehemently opposed.

**Full Disclosure:** I am a Spink County landowner who granted a pipeline easement to Summit Carbon Solutions in 2022. I considered our negotiations to have been conducted professionally and respectfully. My views on the pipeline would be no different, even if the proposed pipeline route did not directly involve my farmland.

My family is blessed to be able to live and work in South Dakota. We appreciate our down-to-earth, conservative governance. I applaud and commend the work of our PUC and staff. Keep up the good work.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald Mendel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'D' and 'M'.

Donald Mendel