



Comments for S.D. PUC public meeting Aberdeen, January 17th

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JAN 17 2025

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket #HP24-001

To: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

I'm writing on behalf of my parents, Sam and Linda Schauer, who live in northern McPherson county and whose land is still on the proposed route which is still listed on the current docket under Appendix 11. I'm still a part of their farming operation and an heir to the land.

My parents are not multi-generational farmers/ranchers like so many of our good friends and neighbors here. My parents purchased their farm north of Leola in 1974. They worked the land, raised crops and five children, three boys and two girls and went to church every Sunday.

As a farmer's daughter, I remember working alongside my dad through the years doing many things such as picking rocks, shoveling grain in the bins, standing as a human marker in the fields as my dad sprayed the crops with the Spray Coop, hauling water from the dug-outs during droughts to water our garden, giving countless rides to and from fields, getting parts, helping fix equipment, the list goes on and on.

Life was not easy starting from scratch. My dad always said he had to borrow the money to borrow the money. He said he did not make any money for the first ten years of farming. I don't know how we survived but we did. My mom sewed all my clothes and we just stayed home and worked all the time. We grew much of our food in our garden and we did much canning and freezing. Many countless hours doing that all summer.

After many years, the farm was paid for and my mom and dad have seen my three brothers take over as renters on the land and seen 13 grandchildren and

six great grandchildren all being born and raised in the area. My dad is 84 years old now. My mom is 78. He's not as active as he used to be due to recent health problems but up until then, he was the hardest working man I knew. Many nights growing up I'd see my dad come in from the fields covered in dirt and sweat, then up before dawn the next day. Always going and rarely taking a vacation or taking a day off, except Sunday. This farming thing gets in your blood. The land is what drives men like my dad to work so hard. Our land was how we made a living. It's everything. That's why when my parents were served lawsuit papers multiple times by our county sheriff, first for survey access, then for eminent domain, it was very emotional and personal.

When our sheriff brought the eminent domain lawsuit papers out to the farm, my parents weren't home. My mom was in the hospital with my dad who was recovering from surgery. He was there for 52 days. I happened to be at my parents farm when the sheriff came and I told the sheriff he would need to come to the hospital if he was going to serve them. He did not, instead he waited until my mom was home alone one day.

A funny story, my mom knew the sheriff was trying to serve her these papers but she didn't want to be served so she tried to avoid it. One day, her and my brother were checking cows west of Leola. They happened to catch Summit surveyors out on the land without permission, even with No Trespassing signs posted. The sheriff was called out, but before he came, my mom hid behind an old water truck in the pasture so she wouldn't be served by the sheriff. My brother spoke to the sheriff when he came out but nothing was done other than to tell the trespassers to leave.

Later on, my brother was informed by WEB water workers who were laying a new water line in that same pasture that Summit showed up one day unannounced while they were working and brought a drill rig in on the land and began drilling holes. This again was unbeknownst to my brother and without permission.

This shows the blatant disregard this company has for our constitutional rights as property owners. They tout the economic development benefits but none of these have been proven and no economic development benefits override our basic rights under the constitution. Period! They fail to mention all those promises are on our taxpayer dime. Take away the tax credits and this sham of a project goes away too. Fake economic development.

Nor do they disclose the true safety problems (accurate independent plume modeling), the amount of water it will take, and electricity needed. They don't disclose their investors. All things are vague and hidden. Red flags all over.

My parents do not want this Green New Deal boondoggle, based on the lie of "climate change" CO2 pipeline. We don't want to see it anywhere in South Dakota or any other place. For the last three years, we've watched Summit lie at our county commission meetings, we've watched them drill holes in our county roads with no consequences, we've watched them trespass over and

over again. We've worked our butts off to protect our land with grassroots activism: holding rallies, having booths at county fairs, walking in parades, helping candidates run for office, many trips to Pierre to attend hearings on legislation and permits, writing resolutions, passing county ordinances, promoting legislation, etc. All grassroots efforts on our own dime. The time and toll it's taken on many of us has been life changing.

So, since the first application where Summit was denied because they could not meet the required four criteria, 66 of 65 counties in South Dakota voted No on RL 21 to keep it that way. The recent primary and general election also proved that the people have spoken and so has the South Dakota Supreme Court. 'The People' continue to win and we will win. We will keep our land for the generations to come and preserve our constitutional private property rights. Summit and their entire agenda will be defeated.

**Sincerely,
Jodi (Schauer) Waltman**