

January 20, 2025

SD Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Proposed CO2 Pipeline Summit Carbon Solutions
Docket HP24-001

Dear PUC Commissioners:

Thank you for reading my sincere concerns in regards to the proposed CO2 pipeline.

The proposed route is an engineer's nightmare. There are so many curves and turns in the route which will be difficult to build with the shapes and angles of pipe needed. It will also require additional welding throughout the route. The South Dakotan's experience with an oil pipeline proved that not all welds were inspected during the construction (and admitted at a PUC public meeting for Navigator). I saw and photographed oil on the outside of the pipe as DAPL performed a maintenance dig. That oil was left in the soil on my property but I can't even imagine the devastation in South Dakota from a CO2 leak.

The proposed CO2 pipeline route is so close to property owners AND their neighbors affected by this route. Rural families will be flocking to big cities to escape the danger of a carbon pipeline. This would definitely affect the small towns of rural South Dakota.

Summit presents a lot of inaccurate and unreliable data in their presentations, whether public or within the homes of the property owners. Please notice that I say property owners and not farmers. Summit claims they will save the ethanol plants and farmers. What about all of the other precious souls in eastern South Dakota that have worked so hard to make a home for their children and the generations to come? The pipeline WILL POSE A THREAT OF SERIOUS INJURY TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND TO THE SOCIAL ECONOMIC CONDITION OF INHABITANTS IN THE SITING AREA ,as well as, SUBSTANTIALLY IMPAIR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE INHABITANTS.

With so much land crossed to create the proposed pipeline, property landowners will be limited on their future plans for expanding or building as business owners, as families, as farmers. I can only see the result of more ghost towns in South Dakota.

Don't get me wrong. I support ethanol plants but I cannot understand how the management of the ethanol plants can justify endangering their neighbors AND the farmers who deliver their corn. How can Summit and the ethanol plants support a process that will damage the land and actually result in lower corn production? Just follow the oil and water pipelines that are already in our state. Crop production is not restored in the three years for which Summit offers reimbursement. The proposed pipeline will create permanent damage to the farmland.

I would like to remind you that once a permit receives a "green light" for construction, the construction begins at a "fast and furious" pace. South Dakota's construction season is short compared to many states. This pace results in mistakes, disrespectful encounters with landowners, and disregard for the PUC permit conditions. Copies of easement agreements and field drain tile maps don't get passed on to the construction crews from management. Other disregards to conditions of the permit result in:

- a. State, county and township road damage
- b. Drain Tile issues
- c. Rocks left on the right of way
- d. Vegetation regrowth issues or weed issues
- e. Fences or gates-gates left open or fences never rebuilt adequately
- f. Sinkage or low or ponding areas
- g. Cattle issues-affecting breeding, weight gain and more
- h. Debris left in the ROW including but not limited to broken glass, wire, rope, marking sticks, construction materials
- i. Improper soil restoration including compaction and destruction of microscopic organisms that live in the soil which are essential for healthy soil and crops
- j. Organic farming interference
- k. Underground water redirected
- l. Lack of training for First Responders and Firemen across southeastern South Dakota

Few South Dakota citizens are aware of the overwhelming process of building a pipeline as Summit has suggested. The huge equipment, the influx of out of state workers (and some of their families), and the cost to each family affected along the route. Attorneys need to be hired to review each and every word in any easement agreement, not to mention future issue settlements. And what happens if there is a leak and the company responsible for damages has filed bankruptcy? The South Dakota citizens do not deserve such a threat. Generations of South Dakota citizens have worked hard to build up our rural communities. Please don't allow a private company to bring our state to ruins.

And with that, I would ask that landowner and neighbor intervenors be allowed an opportunity to present their testimonies in full-not in a limited time at the upcoming hearing. Past hearings have allowed the applicant and the PUC staff adequate time to present their case while intervenors were limited and some were not even allowed to testify. Prefiled testimony sometimes needs to be added to or corrected. A fair and just process needs to be done for the people who live, work and play in South Dakota.

As a farmer myself, I need carbon dioxide for my crops to grow. My young tree grove and my gardens need the carbon. Our state DOES NOT have dangerous levels of carbon in the air. American and worldly markets and guidelines for low carbon fuels change constantly. South Dakotans want persistent opportunities in South Dakota. And we don't want to be controlled by a private company that is seeking private gain.

I trust that we have intelligent citizens who can make the best use of our land, our water, and other resources, but the proposed carbon pipeline is not the best use! It is obvious that the applicant (Summit) cannot comply with the four responsibilities listed in your Information Guide. Please DENY the permit for Summit. They are lacking the facts and evidence needed. Thank you.

Peggy Hoogestraat

Chancellor, SD 57015