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To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>

Subject: [EXT] Public Comment Submission for Mitchell, SD Jan. 15th, 2025 by Samantha Bowman

HP24-001 – In the Matter of the Application by SCS Carbon Transport LLC for a Permit to Construct a Carbon Dioxide Transmission Pipeline

Samantha Bowman

[REDACTED] Mitchell, SD 57301

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Hello, my name is Samantha Bowman, and I am a resident of Mitchell, SD. My husband and I recently purchased our family farm where we grow corn and soybeans. As young adults investing in our home, we kept several important factors in mind: the safety in our neighborhood, the opportunity to raise a family surrounded by agriculture, and quick access to medical care. Unfortunately, all these considerations will be jeopardized by those who are greedily pursuing profit. The proposed pipeline threatens our rights to live in a safe community and hurts our livelihood of farming and ranching. If that pipeline were to spring a leak—a risk that cannot be entirely mitigated—not only would my family be affected, but so would our neighbors, schools, and the entire community. “At concentrations of 2-10%, carbon dioxide (CO₂) can cause nausea, dizziness, headaches, mental confusion, and an increase in both blood pressure and respiratory rate. Nausea and vomiting may occur at levels above 8%, while concentrations exceeding 10% can lead to suffocation and death within minutes. Exposure to the cold gas can freeze tissues, and moisture in the air can create carbonic acid, which irritates the eyes. CO₂ is denser than air, causing it to accumulate in low-lying areas,” states BoldNebraska.org. With our home being within two miles of the proposed route, my family faces these risks at a much higher rate than Summit is willing to admit. CO₂ is a potentially deadly asphyxiant, and a rupture poses a severe threat to nearby people, livestock, and wildlife, ultimately straining rural healthcare systems. Since CO₂ tends to remain close to the ground and can disperse easily with the wind, the strong winds typical of the plains year-round would amplify the effects of this hazardous gas over a much larger area. Although the proposed pipeline is about 10 miles from Mitchell, this distance does not lessen the potential risk to the city and homes north of Mitchell. Furthermore, this proposed route is just miles away from several school districts. There are 62 schools located within three miles of the pipeline. As South Dakota is already grappling with a teacher shortage, we are now asking thousands of families to send their children to school each day, hoping their community won't be the one affected. In some cases, this is the only school available in the county, leaving families with no alternative. No amount of money can replace a loved one.

This proposed pipeline does not aim to improve our world; instead, it serves those looking to profit from government programs. The ethanol industry was originally founded by landowners, farmers, and individuals genuinely striving to produce cleaner fuels for our environment. Now, there are efforts to undermine the rights of farmers who continue to grow grain and ensure the profitability

of our ethanol plants. The carbon capture process actually consumes more energy than it sequesters, resulting in increased emissions and a greater risk to our community. While I understand there is a significant cost difference when considering alternative routes for CO₂ harvesting, it is rural American citizens who will bear the brunt of the loss. There is no advantage to the communities through which the pipeline runs. There is no strategy for harvesting the CO₂ that will be injected underground. Moreover, there is no accountability for these companies if a life is lost—only the heartbreak of a family, the loss of another farm, and the disintegration of a community.