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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

August 1, 2023

From: Bon Homme County Commission, Tyndall, SD
To: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Subj: Letter of Opposition to Proposed CO2 Pipelines

The Bon Homme County Commission wishes to express opposition to the use of eminent domain for private gain by Navigator CO2 Ventures proposed CO2 pipelines running through 23 counties in South Dakota. The original intent of the 5th Amendment of the US Constitution was to allow eminent domain takings by the government for public use, such as roads, electricity and water. Carbon sequestration has never been determined by law to be considered a "public good". Private companies that are not public utilities seek to exploit the eminent domain concept to sequester CO2 deep into the ground, which is not a "public use". While Bon Homme County is not yet directly affected by these CO2 pipelines, the precedent set by granting these permits is a future threat to property owners in our county.

In addition, the public safety threat of a large CO2 pipeline explosion has not been thoroughly studied. A CO2 pipeline explosion occurred in Samaria, MS, resulting in 45 people being hospitalized (some needing supplemental oxygen for several months) and health issues for many people 3 years later such as increased asthma attacks, chronic lung issues, etc. Compressed CO2 could suffocate people and animals; vehicles will not operate in the absence of oxygen making escape impossible. The shut off valves are many miles apart. The potential for a humanitarian disaster is unprecedented. We do not believe that emergency services in any of our remote counties would be capable of handling such a disaster.

Lastly, with the recent failure of HB1133 in the legislature, it falls back to the counties to try and conduct risk assessments and determine risk/benefit of the CO2 pipelines. Therefore, Bon Homme County encourages the Public Utilities Commission to protect South Dakota residents, not the billions of government dollars the private pipeline companies will earn under the guise of "climate change". At the very least, a comprehensive risk assessment needs to be completed before any decision is made on proceeding with this project.

Signed

Bon Homme county Commission





