

**From:** Steve Johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 8, 2022 2:00 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Chris; Hanson, Gary (PUC); Fiigen, Kristie  
**Subject:** [EXT] CO2 Pipelines

Dear PUC members –

My name is Steve Johnson and I live in Brandon, SD. I'm writing in hopes of a response regarding your individual positions on the CO2 pipeline projects that have been in the news. I know there has been at least one hearing some time ago in Pierre. I was unable to attend, but saw thru media reporting that it was a large crowd, which seemed primarily opposed to these projects. I believe it's essential for voters to engage with elected leaders, but to do so in a respectful way....and thank you for your willingness to serve.

My wife and I, along with my in-laws own farm land in Moody County and are familiar with a southward pipeline project whose proposed route was in-line with our own property. We did receive an initial letter from the pipeline company before any media coverage started. We've never since been contacted or gotten any useful information on the project. We've been told by others that crews are out surveying and may be entering our land, possibly without permission. We feel this is wrong, but are wondering if you can clarify if these companies have been given some sort of legal authority by our state to access private property without landowner knowledge or permission.

Whether you are for or against these projects, I'd like to learn of your position as educated commission members. Our broader family and friends are a mix of democrat and republican voters and for once, we all seem to agree that this project should not occur without explicit landowner approvals. I hear talk of eminent domain and do not understand why this would be considered for that. I see candidates using slogans for "No eminent domain for private gain" and I have to admit that message is attractive. Private property rights need be held in the highest regard and it would be comforting to know that our PUC is vigilant in protecting private property rights when faced with temptations of big corporate dollars and promises of this or that. These projects don't seem to serve the public interest, rather, are private businesses chasing federal dollars. I hope voters see thru the bribe of these entities' charitable promises of a tax boon, or construction dollars, even though those are temporay. If the project has merit, it should include incentive for the property owners to give their own approval, not bypass them. This seems fundamental, but maybe it's not anymore.

As much as I support ethanol and industry as a farmer myself, it would seem there are other alternatives for these projects to exist on their own merits, including CO2 pumping into wells at the site of origin (if it is so harmless), rather than condense it and route it to a single location crossing private property, etc. Poet has trucked it's CO2 and worked to be innovative of their by-product without such intervention. I suspect they will succumb to this type of "disposal" if the right money is waived in front of them. I've heard the ads playing from the pipeline companies promising tax dollars, etc. They deserve a response, but likely won't get one, because they know that fragmented land owners won't likely get organized in time to influence the public view. All that should matter is that input our elected leaders receive from their voters to make good, reasoned decisions that follow their oath of office and service to our citizens.

In an era where voters' trust in their politicians is so low, it's important for transparency and to know exactly where our leaders stand, and why. It's also demoralizing when politicians take on career positions with these companies either before, during or after their corporate interests have been supported. It feeds the narrative that our politics is corrupt. I'm hopeful your positions are formed with the highest integrity and I would appreciate your reasoned response.

Thanks you for reading my letter.

Kind Regards,  
Steve Johnson

[REDACTED]

Brandon, SD 57005