



January 4, 2023

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

RE: Docket HP22-001, Summit Carbon Solutions

Dear Chairman Nelson, Commissioner Hanson, and Commissioner Haeder,

I'm writing on behalf of Midwest Ag Future, a South Dakota-based organization representing the interests of farmers, businesses and communities whose prosperity is closely tied to the strength of South Dakota's agriculture-driven economy.

Corn is the heart of our agriculture economy and ethanol is its driver, the production of which uses more than half of the corn grown in this state. South Dakota ethanol has a bright future as a low-carbon and eventually a net-zero transportation fuel, produced when carbon dioxide (CO₂) is captured from the refining process and sequestered. Corn crop and ethanol commodity values, land values and farm incomes rely on strong ethanol demand.

As we transition to a lower-carbon economy, few things will be more important to our state's ongoing prosperity than strong and growing demand for ethanol from which CO₂ has been removed during the refining process. This transition will allow ethanol producers in South Dakota to sell their product at a premium in states and countries that have adopted low carbon fuel standards. This cannot happen without creation of a pipeline network to transport that CO₂ from our state's ethanol refineries to geological storage formations in other states.

The largest and most advanced ethanol-based CO₂ pipeline system is under development by Summit Carbon Solutions, whose permit application is now before the Commission under Docket HP22-001. This system will collect up to 12 million tons of CO₂ annually from at least 32 ethanol refineries in South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota and transport it to permanent and safe storage locations, with the vast bulk of the system's CO₂ traversing South Dakota enroute to in North Dakota.

Few things could be more clearly in the interest of South Dakotans than the expeditious consideration and approval of the necessary permits for its construction. Public hearings are necessary to take place in April and May in order to meet the state's required statutory permit decision deadline of June 15. In contrast to a strong and growing majority of South Dakota landowners who have signed easement agreements with Summit Carbon Solutions, we

understand that a small faction of special interests is urging you to delay them until later this year. Their stated goal is the elimination of ethanol production. This would be contrary to the interests of the great majority of South Dakotans, whose well-being is tied to the strength of the state's agricultural economy driven by strong demand for ethanol.

Time is of the essence. Every month lost results in one million tons of CO₂ released into the atmosphere, delay in creation of thousands of jobs for South Dakota construction workers and postponement of the economic benefits flowing from project construction and operation. Delaying the hearings will serve no useful purpose.

We urge you to schedule hearings for this project in April and May.

Respectfully,

Toby Mack
Midwest Ag Future
601 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20004

(630) 399-1800
tmack@midwestagfuture.com