

August 5, 2023

Public Utilities Commission

500 E. Capitol Ave., first floor

Pierre, SD 57501-5070

**RECEIVED**

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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dear PUC Commissioners,

We hope you are receiving a lot of input objecting to the permitting of the High-Pressure Carbon Capture Pipelines, and we would like to add our objections.

It's important that you consider whether Co2 sequestration is itself a scientifically sound practice. Renowned Belgian professor of clinical psychology, Mattias Desmet, has written extensively on the subjective nature of science, calling it an ideology. He cites the rampant replicability problems in scientific findings which render the results of scientific experiments and modeling unstable. His point is that science has largely "lost its virtue of truth-telling" and has "become the privileged instrument of opportunism, lies, deception, manipulation and power."


The replicability crisis indicates a fundamental epistemological crisis in every field of science and should be a cautionary alert for you regarding any safety studies or modeling provided to you by Navigator and Summit Carbon Solutions. Private corporations are not subject to sunshine laws, so there is no way to know how their plume models and safety studies were conducted or in what ways those studies may have been biased.

We are not convinced that the safety concerns of individuals and local communities have been adequately addressed. These largely foreign-owned companies are already acting as though they have prerogative power to proceed even though they have not yet been granted permits, using condemnation suits under eminent domain to take property from South Dakota citizens when cash incentives and intimidation fail.

We trust that you as elected officials bound by your oaths will prioritize the rights of South Dakota citizens over the temptation of economic development. Article VI of the South Dakota Constitution, our Bill of Rights, does not recognize a "right to economic development". However, Article VI, Section 1 *does* recognize the right of an individual to acquire and protect property. Section 13 speaks of the taking of property with just compensation for *public* use – not for *private* use, which is the case here. We believe the state has allowed these companies to violate the constitutional rights of landowners and it should not be allowed to continue.

We implore you to deny the permits.

Sincerely,



Joel L. Weaver

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Rapid City, SD 57702-3102  
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Tonchi Weaver

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Rapid City, SD 57702-3102  
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