

From: Rod & Joy Hohn [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 4:40 PM

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

Subject: [EXT] Concerns with the Upcoming PUC Proceedings for HP22-002

Dear PUC Commissioners - Thank you for the opportunity to submit a comment to you on the Navigator docket. My family and I are intervenors on the Summit docket.

What is very upsetting to me is how private for-profit companies can just file an application (anyone can file an application), declare that they are a company (which is a routine process to incorporate), misuse our eminent domain laws and then take people's land that has been in their family for generations. How can this happen in America? This is not what our forefathers envisioned for our country. Coming from a hard working, Christian family, I bestowed my trust that the majority of our elected officials were good people with backbones that would stand up for the common good of hard working, tax paying citizens. Throughout our dealings in this process with the pipeline company and the inaction of our elected officials, I am losing faith in our current system.

Yesterday, I received the below reply in an email request asking intervenors to attend and testify at the upcoming hearings in the next two weeks. This email just breaks my heart and needs to be brought to your attention. (After receiving this email, I asked for permission to share this with you.)

Hi Joy,

Thanks for organizing this. It have decided it is too much to travel from California and I doubt any testimony from us would move the needle at all in our favor. It would be a waste of money on our part. The fact that they disallow our written testimony unless we spend days in travel and thousands of dollars to be there shows that the outcome is already predetermined. They are not interested in landowners. Furthermore that they do not want any one to hear or see what is going on backs that up. Nevertheless I will hope and pray that the testimony of those that can be there will be used to change minds.

I really appreciate the work you do in all this. It is amazing.

Yours

Don Cowart

P.S. If my mother (the trustee/owner) who is 84 and disabled also has to come, it just make the whole situation even harder and a sister who is a nurse would also have to take time off to assist.

Many intervenors do not have the time or can not take the time and/or the money to attend these hearings. How is this fair? These billion dollar companies have unlimited money to spend while the majority of hard working, tax paying citizens have to spend their hard earned money (lots of times their retirement money) to fight for what is rightfully theirs? In this day and age, why are you not allowing remote testimony or making sure the opportunity of remote testimony is available? Where are our constitutional rights? Is this really what America has come to? Landowners just want to have the choice - either to have this pipeline on their land or not, but they should be given the choice! Not to have it forced on them by a private company for their own profits!!

South Dakota is an "open for business" state and we welcome new business, but it should not be at the expense or detriment of existing businesses (family farms & ranches) that are already established.

I know what you are going to say, because I have heard it many times from your meetings, response letters back to intervenor comments, etc. Repeatedly, you stress that you have nothing to do with eminent domain, when in reality you are the pathway for these companies to use eminent domain. You are elected by SD citizens and not by these big corporations. Please do what is right on behalf of South Dakota hard working citizens/landowners and deny this permit for the Navigator Heartland Greenway pipeline because they are a private, for- profit company with foreign ties!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joy Hohn

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