

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

I recommend a DO PASS on SB 2379

How is it that we have evolved to considering eminent domain for private uses. This has been reserved for use by the public. I would add that the nature of big projects that benefit all citizens is narrowing and thus here we are discussing what is an ethical use of the power to wield eminent domain.

In our case, we are a great nation and state with or without most projects considered and thus, eminent domain should not even be a consideration on projects. Right now, with all right-of-way and easements being in road ditches, why not change laws and run them under the county roads. Often counties are strapped for money and run pipes under roads, 20 miles from any major populations because in the case of a CO2 disaster it is easier to run down a plowed road than a field covered in 4 ft snow. If there is ever a leak, then the owner of a pipeline is responsible for repair and loss.

Also, in North Dakota, the population is one of our greatest assets with only having 4.7 people per square mile. Bismarck has just 2,000/sq, Lincoln 2,500, city limits to 4 miles out drops to 189/sq, 4 to 20 miles is nearly 26/sq and at 20 miles out it drops to 2.5/sq. Using Bismarck as an example: If we have 100 emergency resources and during peak times avg 38 calls in que, and as a regional support we are called to address 30 in trouble, we still have some resources to send out where appropriate. But if we have a thousand people down, 100 of our resources are addressing needs with 900 in que with no help until resources are available. With those scenarios we either pray it never happens, or we have to make a very expensive decision and become more robust in the area of emergency resources.

Why do we have to walk down the road of making things so hard when we have options to change some laws and run the pipes under roads for emergency accessibility to not have to go the way of eminent domain. Also respect the citizen dollar more by making sure we do not have to expand emergency response beyond what is absolutely necessary for a low probability accident. Maybe the project planners are right and their efforts are the best thing since Independence Day, but if we the people through trusting our legislators can still accomplish things outside of strong arming citizens out of their property regardless of compensation....why not make it happen?

I am well aware of the pressure from the Democrat left to handcuff our states energy resources and that is why I am not taking an absolutely not position of projects. I am asking

for a little grace when we engage one another and not using emanant domain when it is not the resourceful answer for the outcomes of our dynamic populations and perspectives.

Thank you for considering a DO PASS recommendation on SB 2379.

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{All comments above are my personal opinion and DO NOT represent an official position of any entity or organization}