

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2209
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, we are Larry and Cheryl Stockert, and live North of Bismarck in Burleigh County. We support Senate Bill 2209 because:

1. An 85% landowner agreement threshold is appropriate in the case of carbon dioxide pipelines. Ensuring landowner's safety and rights to their land is critical. North Dakota needs to do this right; doing it right does not mean taking our citizen's land without their consent.
2. Boards of County Commissioners in North Dakota should be given authority to enact a higher percentage of landowner's consent for carbon dioxide pipeline easements.
3. Carbon dioxide pipeline technology, which transports deadly hazardous liquid material, is in its infancy with superficial safety regulations. Large diameter carbon dioxide pipelines have not been independently and scientifically proven safe. Eminent domain would be equivalent to a private corporation playing Russian Roulette with our lives and the lives of anyone within the identified "Kill Zone". The U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is currently developing new safety regulations as existing regulations are not adequate. PHMSA stated, "The safety of the American people is paramount and we're taking action to strengthen CO₂ pipeline safety standards to better protect communities, our first responders, and our environment."

Let's "do it right" for all, not just for corporations! We are asking for a YES vote on Senate Bill 2209.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Larry and Cheryl Stockert