

Summit Carbon Solutions Testimony on Senate Bill 2209
January 27, 2023, 9:30 A.M.
Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee
Senator Dale Patten, Chairman

**Charlie Adams – Manager of Agriculture and Stakeholder Relations,
Summit Carbon Solutions**

Opposition to SB 2209

My name is Charlie Adams. I am a Manager of Agriculture and Stakeholder Relations for Summit Carbon Solutions. I am a fourth generation North Dakotan who grew up on the farm 2 miles north of Lansford in western Bottineau County. My record of service to the rural agriculture community includes service as a Bottineau County Commissioner. During that time, I served on the state board of the North Dakota County Commissioners Association. I was also the General Manager of Hefty Seed Company in Mohall for 8 years where I helped farmers grow their business. I joined Summit Carbon Solutions in July to connect with landowners and farmers, local government leaders, and other stakeholders to get the facts out regarding our project and its benefit to the future of North Dakota's agriculture and energy industries. I ask for your opposition to Senate Bill 2209 for the following reasons:

- 1.) The enactment of this bill arbitrarily singles out CO².
- 2.) The enactment of this bill adds additional responsibility onto the workload of County Commissioners and county staffs, creating another layer of bureaucracy.

First, this bill seemingly singles out CO² based on random choice or personal whim. CO² is a resource for North Dakota. Lyn Helms addressed this in a recent joint session of your committee, the House Energy & Natural Resources committee, and both chambers' Agriculture Committees showing a well-thought-out strategy for CO² infrastructure development for our state over the next 50+ years. That future CO² infrastructure development strategy starts with capture facilities and pipelines. His presentation suggested that proper allocation of this resource would unlock approximately 10 billion barrels of oil in the Bakken and Three Forks formations in the Williston Basin. As such, the importance of a CO² line is essentially as necessary as the oil and gas lines that are required to export North Dakota's vast energy reserves.

Secondly, by specifying an exact percentage of landowners and allowing that percentage to ratchet higher at the will of County Commissions, this legislation creates an additional layer of bureaucracy and signals to industry that North Dakota is a difficult place to do business. This creation would undoubtedly bring fiscal impact both at the state and county level that would adversely impact taxpaying property owners as well as already understaffed county departments. Conservative North Dakotans are not looking for additional layers of government. Our elected Public Service Commissioners already do a very thorough job of establishing and enforcing minimum safety standards for the design, construction, and operation of pipeline facilities. Specifically, the existing CO² pipeline that safely operates north from Beulah and has now for over 22 years.

The enactment of this bill gives County Commissions the right to require 100% acquisition. This gives County Commissions the power to shut down economic development based on the smallest of parcels. This would discourage development and investment in North Dakota for future infrastructure. North Dakota's legislature has been an industry business partner with respect to ag and energy. County commissioners should be following suit and looking for tools to alleviate the property tax burden by welcoming economic development, not looking for tools to restrict it. Senate Bill 2209 puts them in a position to stifle future development and restrict tax base revenues. It is for these reasons that I oppose the enactment of Senate Bill 2209 and respectfully urge you to recommend a DO NOT PASS. Thank you.