

Good Morning, Chairman Patten and committee members

My name is Keith Kessler. I am a farmer and rancher in Oliver County, and a landowner within the boundaries of a carbon sequestration project.

We are opposed to Senate Bill 2209, as it would have a huge negative impact on North Dakota's ag and energy industries. Carbon capture is important for agriculture and energy, because they go hand-in-hand. Everybody eats. Everybody turns on the light switch. Everybody uses power. We have to sustain agriculture and energy in North Dakota and in the US in general. Both of these industries are under attack, and we have a way to defend them with carbon capture. In addition, it will bring additional jobs and economic benefits to the state and region.

As far as safety is concerned, there's a pipeline that's been in operation with CO2 going to Canada for 20-plus years on the bottom of Lake Sakakawea, and that's been safe. No issues there. So I don't personally have a concern with it.

We have had very good conversations with the company developing the project, and feel comfortable that they will work effectively with landowners throughout the planning, construction, and operation of the pipeline. Their representatives are local people, friendly faces, some in agriculture just like we are. They've been good to work with.

My family has owned this land for over 100 years. It is my hope that this land stays in my family for generations to come. A stable source of additional income can help with that. I am also opposed to Senate Bills 2212, 2228, 2314, and 2317.

Thank you.