

Good evening, Chairman Patten and Energy and Natural Resources committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2209. I strongly urge you to support this bill. Carbon Dioxide pipelines are a different animal and there is no public benefit to them. The claims of going carbon-neutral are a complete farce, a scam if you will. When billions of dollars are available in the form of tax credits, there are some that see this as an opportunity to capitalize on (including many state politicians, read the news), knowing full well they cannot get their pet projects approved unless thousands of acres of people's land are scarred and the safety of the people nearby compromised. But, progress right?

Our current laws enable and welcome any and all development, some of which is good for the state. The problem is that the state of ND is predominately in private ownership (>90%), and the way things are, private landowners have the short end of the stick. This bill would strengthen private property rights for projects that have no public benefit. When you consider what is enabling these types of projects to come to fruition, keep in mind government spending is out of control and the tax credits available for carbon capture and storage is the epitome of a waste of tax payer's dollars. I don't know about anyone else but I would prefer to see our tax dollars go to something useful.

My point in all this is, SB 2209 would give landowners in North Dakota a voice. If less than 85% of private landowners don't agree to a project, then I'm sorry, the project isn't that important and eminent domain should absolutely not be an option. We are not talking about heating people's homes or providing families with potable drinking water here, we are talking about hazardous pipeline projects that solely benefit private interests and compromise safety of citizens along the way. Plain and simple. Please look past the dollar signs of the recent proposed CO2 projects and support private property rights as well as the safety of the people who have made North Dakota "Legendary". Please pass this bill and support private property rights.

Thank you,

Greg Schonert