

Chairman Patten and Members of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee,

I own and operate a 4-generation farm and ranch near Milnor in Sargent County. Corn is our largest commodity, and we also grow soybeans, sunflowers, and wheat. In addition, my father started selling seed in the 1960s and we've always been at the forefront of technology in seed hybrid selection and farming practices. A good amount of our corn is sold to the ethanol plant, and we understand how important ethanol production is to our farm and our rural communities.

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to Senate Bills 2209 and 2314 because these bills single out CO2 unfairly. CO2 pipelines are safe and proven. The DSG CO2 pipeline north of Beulah has been operating safely for over 22 years. The PSC has done a great job of regulating that and moving some of that regulation to county commissions is not right. County commissions are not set up to regulate pipelines. Leave that to the elected officials of the PSC. These bills restrict infrastructure development of the ag and energy industries and those are the two most important industries for our state. I say this as a farmer who relies on a strong ethanol market for my corn.

Please recommend a DO NOT PASS for SB2209 and 2314.

Sincerely,
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