

To the honorable members of the Energy and Natural Resource committee:

Private property may not be taken or damaged for public use without just compensation first having been made to or paid into court for the owner. When private property is taken by a person, no benefit to accrue from the proposed improvement may be allowed in ascertaining the compensation to be made therefor. Private property may not be taken for the use of, or ownership by, any private individual or entity, unless that property is necessary for conducting a common carrier or utility business.

-32-15-01 North Dakota Century Code

Is a carbon dioxide pipeline needed for the public good?

No. A privately owned carbon dioxide pipeline going across half of our state is not in the public's best interest and is not done with the intent of public good. Opponents of SB 2212 are propagating that a privately owned carbon dioxide pipeline is needed to stimulate growth in North Dakota's economy. This simply is not true. The average North Dakotan gets zero benefit. The majority of jobs that such a project would develop are short term and not sustainable. The proposed pipeline captures carbon primarily from other states-not North Dakota. The individuals who would benefit are those who are financially invested in the proposed carbon dioxide pipeline-not the public. If public interest was at the heart of a project, a public utility would be managing a carbon dioxide pipeline project NOT a private company.

Carbon dioxide pipelines are not a public utility and do not provide any direct benefit to the public; therefore, carbon dioxide pipelines should not have right to eminent domain. The majority of opposition to this bill comes from companies and individuals who have a financial interest in the success of a private company. If a private company wants to tear up a corridor across the state for a carbon dioxide pipeline, please give landowners the opportunity to negotiate fairly without the fear of eminent domain.

The current wording of North Dakota's Century Code invites private companies to come in and abuse eminent domain in order to collect federal tax dollars. The majority of North Dakotans do not support the use of eminent domain to forcibly take family farmland in order to generate private profit for out-of-state investment companies. A concerning precedent will be set if North Dakota allows eminent domain for the sake of investor profits, with no goods or services provided to North Dakotans in return. The use of eminent domain for carbon dioxide pipelines simply has no place in North Dakota's Century Code.

I hope that North Dakota has enough integrity to allow property owners-families, farmers, and small businesses-to exist without the fear of large corporations despoiling years, decades, and even generations of honest labor.

I humbly ask for your support and vote YES on SB2212.

God bless-



Christine Childress
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