

2 Feb 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing on behalf of a very important matter regarding land that is owned by us and our families and that will greatly be impacted by this project. The Red River Valley Water Supply Project, in theory, is a great project that is needed for a reliable water source for the eastern portion of North Dakota.

We are not against the project and the purpose it will fulfill for many but we are against the way us landowners are being treated in regards to the use of our land for this project, the threat of eminent domain, the limitations imposed on what we can do with our land once this project starts and the ongoing care and ownership of the project due to liability concerns during and long after the "100 year life of the line."

In our situation, the plan is to dig a pipeline 15 ft deep x 150 ft wide and over 1.5 miles long. The land is being valued on an estimate taken 10 years ago, offering us less than \$40,000 R/W compensation. This does not even compensate for a good used pickup truck for this amount today and certainly not for 100 yrs from now. We will also be paying taxes on this land, which we will not be able to use as we choose, due to the limits this project will be imposing on it and us.

We do not want to leave all of these concerns and responsibilities to our children, grand children and great grandchildren for this amount of time and compensation. We could get more out of the land by not being involved in this project than we can get by supporting it on the terms that have been presented to us.

Fair compensation would be based on that of current appraised value for the use of our land. Another option would be that the amount of water traveling through the pipeline on our land be an annual water transfer fee, given to the land owners, for the use of that land.

In conclusion, it does not seem fair, nor in the best interest of all landowners, that eminent domain comes into play regarding compensation because we have not been able to negotiate any part of this up to this point. Again, we do support The Red River Valley Water Supply Project and the needs it will fulfill.

Respectfully,

Kevin Baumbach
Diane Baumbach