

Good Morning: My name is Dennis Walen and I am here to address mine and other landowner concerns of the Red River Valley Pipeline Project

A major concern we have is for the responsibility and liability of the pipeline. We feel the responsibility and liability of this pipeline should be on the State of North Dakota and not the landowners as the project is being funded by the state of North Dakota.

As landowners we do not feel we should be responsible for any costs associated with the pipeline. Concerns of pipe failure, abandonment, or any other unforeseen costs could have a drastic financial impact to the farmer or landowners.

We have heard Garrison Diversion is telling legislators they are not using eminent domain to get our land but rather trying to work with the landowners on easement and other concerns. On January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 the Foster County sheriff served us with Complaint for Condemnation papers to obtain a right-of-way easement for the installation and maintenance of a 72 inch buried water pipeline on our property.

Garrison is not offering us fair compensation for our land. Only .22 percent of their budget is coming back to the landowner. That is less than a quarter of a percent.

This pipeline project will disturb our farmland, making it less productive in years to come. There will be vent pipes placed in our fields making obstructions for us to try farm around. With larger equipment there will be areas we cannot farm creating more wasteland.

Our county and township roads will be greatly damaged by extra amount of truck traffic removing excess soil and bringing in proper fill to compact their pipes.

In closing, I feel that Garrison Diversion is not willing to work with farmers or landowners for a favorable compensation as they will use eminent domain to get our land. This is not fair to us as farmers or landowners.

Garrison Diversion is working for the state. **You** fund them! **They** works for you!

You were elected by us to not only look out for Garrison but us as landowners also.

**You as legislators can make this right for all landowners by stopping the use of eminent domain and resolve a favorable compensation for landowners.**