



WESTERN DAKOTA ENERGY ASSOCIATION

January 30, 2025

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Testimony of:

Geoff Simon, Lobbyist #144
in opposition to HB 1210 – CO2 pipeline damages
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

On behalf of the city, county and school district members of the Western Dakota Energy Association (WDEA), we wish to express our strong opposition to HB 1210, which would establish CO2 “kill zones,” and provide liens to landowners near a CO2 pipeline.

WDEA has been an active sub-partner in a CO2 Marketing and Education project authorized by the 2023 North Dakota Legislature and implemented through the Industrial Commission. The goal of the education effort is to provide factual information about the state’s emerging CO2 industry to policy makers, landowners, emergency responders and the general public. Key among our efforts was developing an understanding of the safety risks associated with carbon dioxide pipelines.

Our research revealed there are more than 5,000 miles of existing CO2 pipelines in the United States, including two in North Dakota. They include the Dakota Gas/Souris Valley Pipeline, a 205-mile CO2 pipeline from the Dakota Gasification Plant near Beulah, northwest past Tioga, and into Saskatchewan. It has been transporting up to 2 million metric tons of CO2 annually for enhanced oil recovery (EOR) for nearly 25 years. The pipeline operates at a pressure of 2,000 pounds per square inch. Its only leak in its long operating history occurred when it first began operation due to an incorrectly installed seal. Aside from that, the pipeline has operated without incident.

The other existing project is the Denbury/ExxonMobil Pipeline in Bowman County. The final nine miles of this CO2 pipeline, which originates in Wyoming, has delivered CO2 to the oilfields in the Bowman area for enhanced oil recovery since 2022.

The point of citing these examples is to emphasize that carbon dioxide pipelines are perfectly safe, debunking the fearmongering and misinformation spread by those who oppose CO2 pipeline development. The Carbon Education Project has been labeled “state-funded propaganda” by some of its critics, but in fact HB 1210 and its proposed establishment of “kill zones” amounts to false propaganda intended to instill fear that CO2 pipelines somehow create an unreasonable risk to residents living nearby.

WDEA urges the committee to soundly reject this misguided legislation.

Geoff Simon
Executive Director

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