

Testimony in Support of HB 1292

James and Jessica Tiegs

To the Honorable ND Legislators,

We are residents in Dickey County whose land has been in the crosshairs of Summit Carbon Solutions for the last 3+ years. SCS would like us to sign away rights to significant portions of our crop land so they can transport hazardous CO2 via pipeline, with the intention of gaining billions of dollars in federal tax benefits and “saving agriculture”. We assure you that agriculture’s foundation is much greater than any corporate climate-related project or opportunistic ethanol plant. Carbon pipelines should have NEVER been listed as a common carrier; it’s time to stop catering to the CO2 boondoggle.

According to actual definition, common carriers are entities that offer transportation services to the public for a fee. Some examples of common carrier services include airlines, ferries, internet service providers, guided tours, rural water, insurance companies, and utilities. Common carriers are different from private carriers; private carriers use their own vehicles and transport their own goods or goods for specific clients. Examples of private carriers include a retailer’s fleet of trucks, manufacturer’s transportation, construction companies, and landscaping companies. A private carrier does not transport goods as its primary business.

SCS is a private carrier. They are a private company of investors that enter in formal contracts with entities like ethanol plants and Gevo and only exist because of the IRA 45Q tax credits; these actions do not qualify them as service providers to the public. South Dakota has denied SCS common carrier status and it’s only logical that ND follows suit.

We urge a DO PASS on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.