

Zach Cassidy

Organizer

Dakota Resource Council

Dear Mr Chairman and members of the committee. I am Zachary Cassidy, writing in support of HB 1414, which would specify that the state may not exercise eminent domain for renewable energy, hydrogen, and CO2-related infrastructure. Similar to HB 1292 we see this bill as an important step in protecting private property rights in North Dakota. The use of eminent domain for infrastructure projects, especially CO2 pipelines whose "public good" is questionable, has gone way beyond its original intent. Forcing a pipeline on landowners that could be dangerous should not be done. Summit has been very enthusiastic about forcing landowners to sign easements, and eminent domain has been the biggest tool they have used. These companies will brag about how many voluntary easements they have signed, but how many gave up because they fear losing it anyway?

DRC recommends DO PASS on this bill.