

## **Testimony in Support of HB 1414**

James and Jessica Tiegs

To the Honorable ND Legislators,

Up to this point in time, we have been lifelong residents, landowners and farmers in the State of ND. We are both educated people; James obtained a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business from SDSU in 1997 and Jessica a BSN from UND in 1999. James is considered a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation farmer and Jessica is 4<sup>th</sup> generation. It's important you all understand the magnitude of our investment, hard work, and commitment to the land entrusted to us.

We were initially contacted by SCS greater than three years ago. We did some research and made an easy decision that we absolutely did not want a high-pressure supercritical carbon dioxide pipeline near our family and community. We quickly realized they were not going to take "NO" for an answer, so we turned all communications over to our lawyer. We were never removed from the route; they plan to cross greater than two miles of some of our best crop land. During these years, we have also denied wind and solar companies access to our crop land. Please understand that we grow crops on this land to make an honest living and we take the God-given responsibility of land stewardship very seriously. We expect the ND legislature to uphold and strengthen our constitutional protections.

PLEASE support HB 1414. In recent SD news, we read that an attorney from SCS was quoted as saying, "Eminent domain pulls people to the table so that we can engage in the type of conversations that result in success". This tactic is brutal and completely one-sided; North Dakota property owners deserve better. It's outrageous to allow a private company, that's not even for public use, to infiltrate the freedoms of ND citizens. We know the eminent domain card has given SCS a tremendous advantage in the process of obtaining their "voluntary" easements. The use of eminent domain has gone way beyond its original intent; evolving into outright abuse. If our property rights are not properly secured, then freedom is lost.

We urge a DO PASS on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.